




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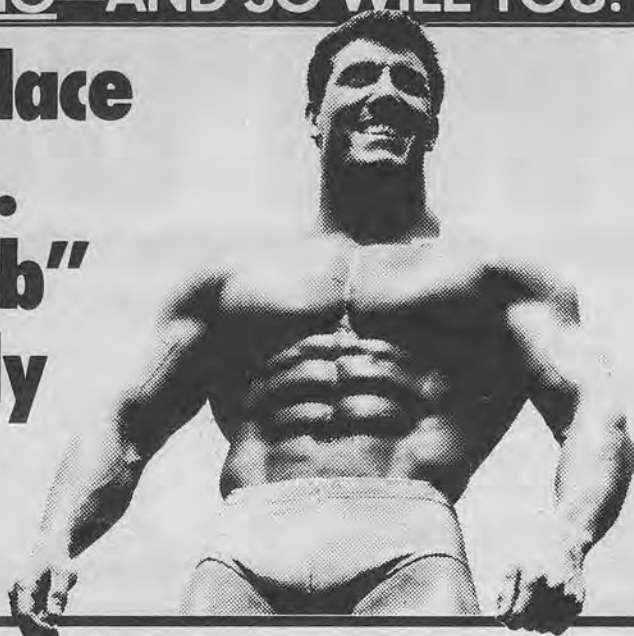
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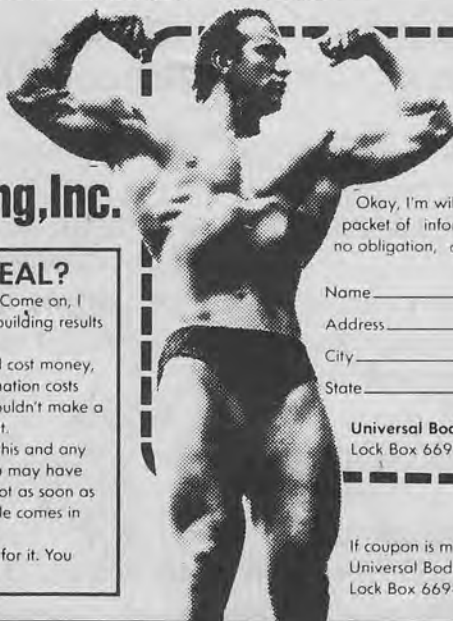
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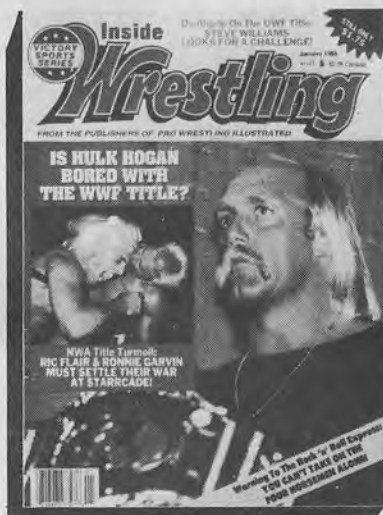
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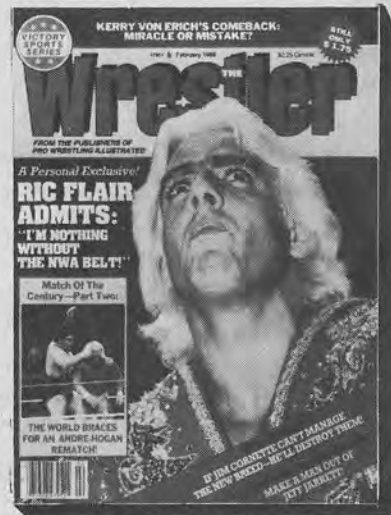
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YOUR LETTERS

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FAIR TURNABOUT

I am writing in regard to Christian Watts' letter ("Who Deserves What?") in "Your Letters" in the March 1988 issue of *The Wrestler*.

Christian, it seems that Horsemen fans are just like The Four Horsemen. They only see what they *want* to see. Sure, Nikita Koloff used a foreign object in his TV title match against Tully Blanchard, and I'm not saying he was right in doing so. But it was Arn Anderson who, when he saw that Tully might lose, gave Tully the object to hit Nikita. The referee was out and Nikita was occupied with J.J. Dillon, who was interfering as usual. Tully hit Nikita when he turned away from J.J. So it was an instance of turnabout being fair play.

Also, you have nerve to talk about Barry Windham's illegal interference! I can't begin to count the times the Horsemen have won matches or held on to titles through illegal interference. Do Greensboro, \$100,000, Dusty Rhodes, Magnum T.A., and Dark Journey ring a bell?

EVVIE TOWNSEND
Durham, NC

MISGUIDED BAN

I think you were wrong when you stated in a recent issue that George "The Animal" Steele should be



Jimmy Hart can't stop George Steele from choking The Honky Tonk Man. Reader Mike Acquisto writes that many wrestlers break the rules as often as Steele does.

banned ("Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down," January 1988). You stated that he constantly breaks rules—which is true—but so does everyone else in wrestling! Men like Ric Flair, Greg Valentine, Tully Blanchard, and The Hart Foundation cheat; they always have. The difference between these men and Steele is that they cheat to win.

Steele, on the other hand, hardly ever does. On a recent *Saturday Night's Main Event*, Steele actually demonstrated some scientific ability with a perfect leg scissors and that dangerous armlock of his. His opponent, Danny Davis, used a foreign

object and choked Steele. In the end, "The Animal" won—with a regular wrestling move.

So maybe you should start putting some thought into who you want to ban. Personally, I'd like to see that dirtbag Honky Tonk Man banned for life!

MIKE ACQUISTO
Stockton, CA

NEW ADMIRATION

I've always respected Lex Luger as a wrestler. When he was a Horseman I believed that he had the ability to be the very best in the business,

(Continued on page 56)

THE VIDEOTAPE EVENT OF THE YEAR!



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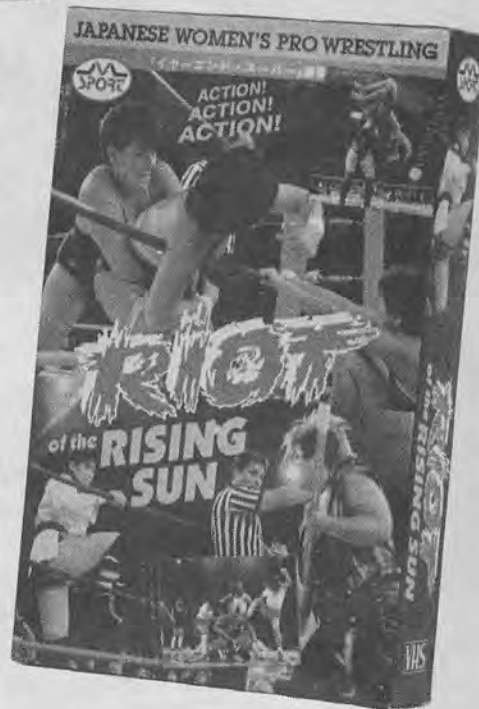
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- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

THE AWA WORLD heavyweight title controversy is completely out of hand.

In the wake of **Greg Gagne's** pin-fall victory over champion **Curt Hennig** on February 4 in Minneapolis, promoters in Chicago, Denver, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Wisconsin, and North Dakota are recognizing Gagne as champion. But because AWA President **Stanley Blackburn** never sanctioned this steel cage match as being a title match, Hennig is still officially recognized as champion of the AWA. The AWA title can't change hands in a cage without the approval of the president.

Now the title has been declared held up in the Pacific Northwest following a match between Hennig and PNW heavyweight champion **The Grappler** in Portland, Oregon. Grappler kicked Hennig with a loaded boot while referee **Sandy Barr** wasn't looking, then covered Hennig for the pin. But PNW official **Barry Owen** stopped Barr before he could make the three-count.

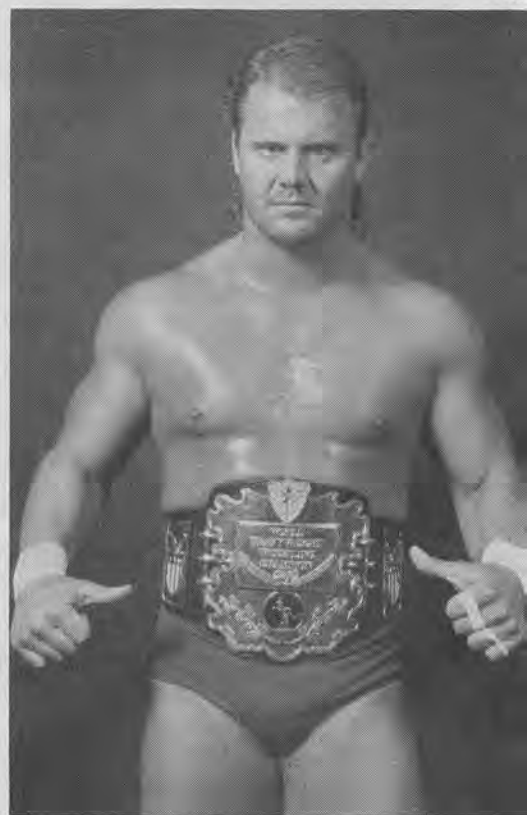
While Owen told Barr what happened, **The Assassin** entered the ring and headbutted Grappler with a loaded mask, knocking him out.

Hennig then covered Grappler for the pin, but promoter **Don Owen** later revealed that Blackburn ordered the match stopped and the belt held up in the event of outside interference.

So: Gagne is the champion in some areas, Hennig is the champion in others, and the belt has been held up in the Pacific Northwest. Who's the champ? The AWA is officially recognizing Hennig, and *The Wrestler* will abide by this decision—until something else changes the situation!

Meanwhile, the AWA World tag team belts are also at the center of controversy. **The Midnight Rockers** defended their championship against **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** on February 15 in Memphis, but a double pin situation caused the title to be held up. The rematch was held one week later in Memphis and the Rockers regained the belts, but not without some chicanery on the part of **Shawn Michaels** of the Rockers and **Manny Fernandez**.

Marty Jannetty of the Rockers and **Robert Gibson** were fighting outside the ring as referee **Jerry Calhoun** tried to restore order. Meanwhile, **Rick Morton** had Mi-



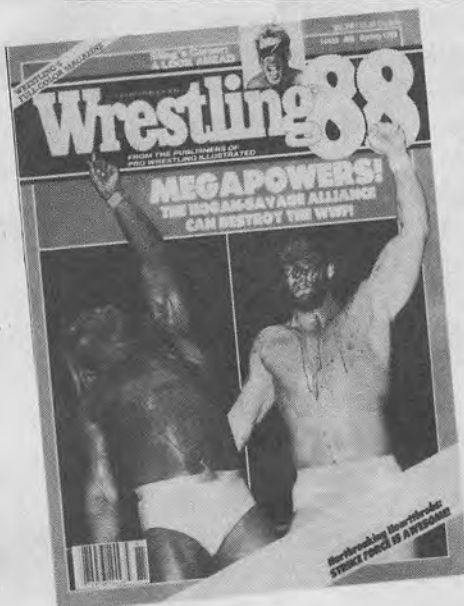
Yet another controversy surrounds Curt Hennig's AWA World title. In Portland, Oregon, Hennig pinned The Grappler, but the title was held up due to outside interference by The Assassin.

chael pinned. But Fernandez ran out of the dressing room, climbed the ropes, and came crashing down on Morton's back. Fernandez then put Michaels on top of

(Continued on page 46)

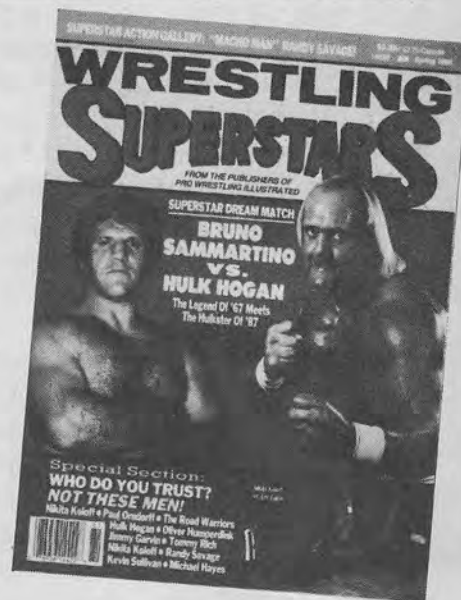
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REPORTS

Landover, MD (Correspondent—Michael Lang): The main event at the Capital Centre was a 30-man battle royal—bunkhouse-style, meaning that a wrestler could come to the ring dressed any way he pleased. The action was hot and heavy as wrestlers seemed to be going over the top rope constantly! One of the most impressive moments in the early going was when Ultimate Warrior had One Man Gang and Hercules Hernandez in his complete control.

After plenty of frantic action there were just four wrestlers left: Jake "The Snake" Roberts, Don "The Rock" Muraco, and Demolition; Ax and Smash were dominating as they double-teamed Roberts, then did the same to Muraco. Finally, they threw out Roberts, leaving "The Rock" to deal with Demolition by himself. Jake stayed at ringside to watch as Demolition continued to destroy Muraco.

The situation changed dramatically when Jake threw his snake in the ring. Ax was caught by surprise, leaving Smash to deal with Muraco. Smash was easily thrown from the ring, as was Ax, leaving "The Rock" as the winner.

In other bouts: Dino Bravo defeated Lanny Poffo ... Sam



Don "The Rock" Muraco recently won a 30-man bunkhouse battle royal at the Capital Centre.

Houston beat Danny Davis ... Ultimate Warrior and Hercules Hernandez were both counted out. One Man Gang defeated Don Muraco ... Jake Roberts beat Harley Race ... Greg Valentine defeated Brutus Beefcake ... Davey Boy Smith beat Islander Haku.

Minneapolis, MN (Correspondent—Aaron Goff): The Minneapolis Auditorium has been the site of many historic wrestling matches dating back to 1941, when Bronko Nagurski beat Ray

Steele for the NWA World title. Because the historic site is going to be torn down, the AWA decided to hold one last card at the auditorium. The event was attended by former greats like Red Bastien and Stan "Crusher" Kowalski, and included ring appearances by aged veterans such as Billy Robinson and Dick the Bruiser.

Unfortunately, the last wrestling match ever at the Auditorium ended in controversy. AWA World champion Curt Hennig faced archrival Greg Gagne in a steel cage match. Hennig complained that special referee Leo Nomellini, an ex-football and wrestling great, was biased because he was a good friend of Verne Gagne's.

All scientific wrestling was thrown out as both combatants used the cage to brutalize one another. Hennig took the early advantage when he opened up a gash on Gagne's forehead after ramming the challenger's head into the steel mesh six consecutive times. Hennig followed up his attack with kicks and punches. Gagne was able to reverse an Irish whip, which catapulted the champion headfirst into the cage. Gagne then grabbed Hennig's legs and fell back. The momen-

(Continued on page 44)

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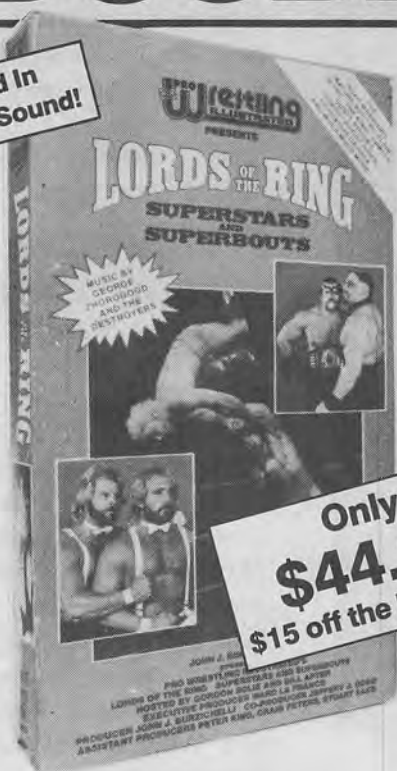
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Q: "My question is for Dusty Rhodes: If Larry Zbyszko got rough with Baby Doll the way Tully Blanchard did two years ago, would you come to her rescue again?"—Marty Kibler, Greensboro, MD

A: "That woman is *baaaad* news," Dusty replied. "I don't want no part of her ever again. What she did to me in the past is unforgivable, absolutely unforgivable. 'The Dream' will not fall for her wily charms like he did back then. I was being chivalrous, you understand, and look how she repaid me. Poor Larry Zbyszko. He don't



Dusty Rhodes says befriending Baby Doll was one of the biggest mistakes he ever made, and that Larry Zbyszko will reach the same conclusion soon.

really know what he's doing. He don't realize what Baby Doll is capable of. When he finally learns, daddy, it's gonna be too late, just like it was for Tully Blanchard."

Q: "My question is for Curt Hennig: I know that you are the greatest AWA World champion of all time, and the chances of you getting beaten are about a billion to one. But if anybody *could* beat you for the belt, who would it be?"—Larry Amann, Dracut, MA

YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR questions!

Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones!

Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: **YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.**

Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion.

A: "I don't like to answer hypothetical questions," Hennig replied. "I won't even speculate about how I might lose, because I won't. As you said, I'm the greatest AWA champion ever. The competition is good, but not nearly good enough.

Greg Gagne may think he's worthy of my belt, but he hasn't proven a thing. When he is occasionally lucky enough to win a tainted victory, it's in a non-title match. It figures. The idiot saves his best efforts for matches that don't even count. If that's not proof of what a total idiot Gagne is, I don't know what is."

Q: "My question is for both Barry and Kendall Windham: Now that you're both wrestling in the same area, I was wondering: Why haven't you made a concentrated effort to win either the NWA World or U.S. tag team titles?"—Faye Hebert, Cohoes, NY

A: "Kendall and I have our own separate goals now," Barry said. "I'm more concerned with a singles title than another tag belt, and Kendall will have to decide what's best for him. When he first started out, I wanted to be close by so I could chart his progress and make sure he was learning the right things. Now that he can take care of himself, that need doesn't exist anymore." Kendall concurred: "Barry's been a great help these

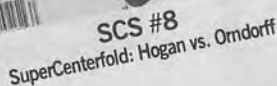
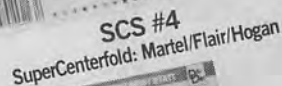
(Continued on page 60)



Curt Hennig clobbers Greg Gagne with the AWA World title belt. Despite warring with Gagne for months, Hennig has no respect for him or his ability.

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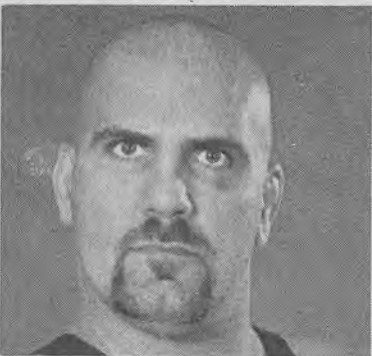
Alternate choices

Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



Thumbs Up to Bruiser Brody. An unusual but admirable act allows us to praise wrestling's "Mercenary of Mayhem." This past February, *The New York Post* and Continental Airlines held a fundraising auction for the Muscular Dystrophy Association at Shout!, a Manhattan nightclub. Brody, who obviously has his heart in the right place, donated his wrestling boots—decorated with skull and crossbones. The boots attracted a top bid of \$500, which not only made some wrestling fan very happy, but helped in the fight against this terrible disease.



Thumbs Up to Nikita Koloff. Another fine act of charity this month comes from "The Russian Nightmare." Koloff has dedicated his entire life to wrestling; now he's decided to dedicate some time to helping people. In February, Nikita announced he was going on a six-week tour of the United States to speak out against drug abuse. "Just say *nyet!*" is Nikita's message in the current issue of *Inside Wrestling*, and we can't think of a more capable man to tell the nation's youth about the evils of drugs. It's good to see that some wrestlers *do* care about their fans.

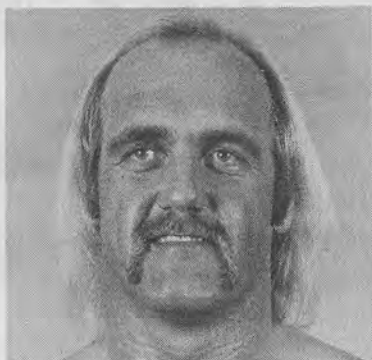


Thumbs Up to The Honky Tonk Man. Back in November, Intercontinental champion The Honky Tonk Man challenged Hulk Hogan, then the WWF World champ, to a series of title vs. title matches. Hogan accepted, and a match was signed for February 18 at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena in New Jersey. Two weeks before that match, however, Hogan lost the WWF title. With nothing to gain and his title to lose, Honky Tonk could have backed out of the match and Hogan couldn't have done anything about it. But Honky Tonk chose to live up to his obligations. For once, he acted like a real man and put his title on the line!



Thumbs Up to Tom Zenk. As an article in this issue states, Zenk is back in action and going after Curt Hennig's AWA World heavyweight title. This is good news because Zenk is one of the more talented young men in this game, and the sport needs to nurture more appealing stars who know the meaning of fair play. Although we don't entirely agree with Zenk's reasons for joining the AWA (he hopes to prove he's as good as former partner Rick Martel), we can see where he felt slighted as a member of The Can-Am Connection. We wish him the best of luck. Win or lose, Tom made the right move.

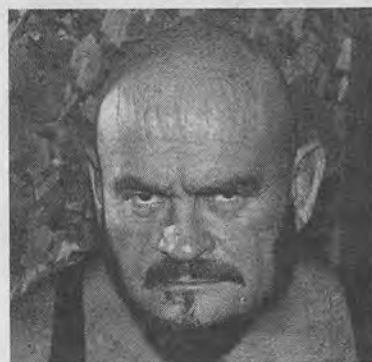
Thumbs Down



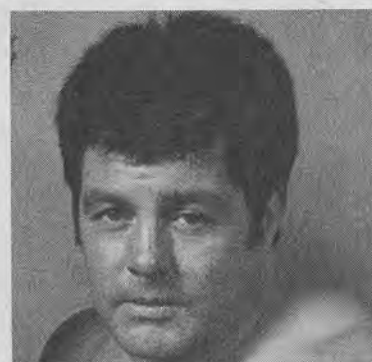
Thumbs Down to Hulk Hogan. Andre the Giant, Earl Hebner, Ted DiBiase, and WWF President Jack Tunney have all shared the blame for the despicable WWF World title situation. But what about Hogan? The former champ was rightfully angry after getting robbed of the title on February 5 in Indianapolis, but all of the little Hulkamaniacs had to be wondering if Hogan was showing them how to act after losing. Hogan cried like a baby, threw imposter ref Earl Hebner out of the ring, and continued to pout in an interview with Gene Okerlund. "The Hulkster" is a *very* sore loser.



Thumbs Down to Ken Mantell. Speaking of reprehensible decisions by federation presidents, Mantell may have totally destroyed the integrity of the World Class Texas tag title. In February, John Tatum and Jack Victory wrestled The Fantastics for the belts. Mantell ordered that there must be a winner, but when Bobby Fulton and Victory were counted out in the third fall, the match still hadn't been decided. A fan was then called into the ring to cut a deck of cards. Victory and Tatum picked the high card and were given the title. This is no way for a title to be won! This is wrestling, not pinochle!



Thumbs Down to Ivan Koloff. Despicable Soviet scum. That's Ivan Koloff. On January 30 in Greensboro, North Carolina, The Road Warriors were involved in a strength competition with The Barbarian and The Warlord. As Animal prepared for a 600-pound benchpress, Ivan threw a box of chalk powder in Hawk's face. A wild brawl ensued and Animal suffered a severe eye injury. Warlord, Barbarian, and manager Paul Jones must be faulted, but nothing would have happened if Ivan, who didn't belong there in the first place, didn't incite this dreadful riot.



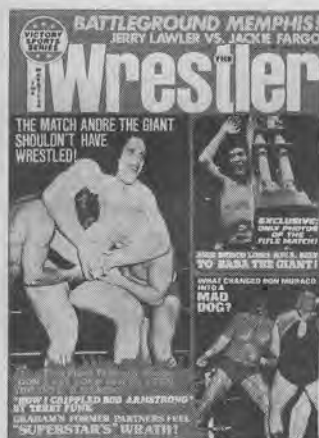
Thumbs Down to Bill Dundee. Boy, were we fooled! We thought Bill Dundee could be trusted this time. We thought he and Jerry Lawler had finally come to terms and would form an outstanding tag team for many years to come. Lawler and Dundee wrestled each other several times without incident. Then Dundee had to ruin it all by interfering in Lawler's match against Jeff Jarrett and attacking both men. Once again, Dundee showed what kind of man he really is. His friendship is worthless. He deceived Lawler. He deceived Jarrett. Dundee can *never* be trusted again. □



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THE Wrestler

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JUNE 1975

June 1975/Stories include: Andre, Muraco, Funk, Lawler.

August 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Patterson, Stasiak, Rivera.

December 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, McDaniel, Blackjacks.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Sammartino, Rhodes, Valentine.

July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

November 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Valentine, Mosca.

December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.

January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.

May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.

June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

July 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Rocca, Mascaras.

October 1977/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Suka.

November 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Suka.

September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.

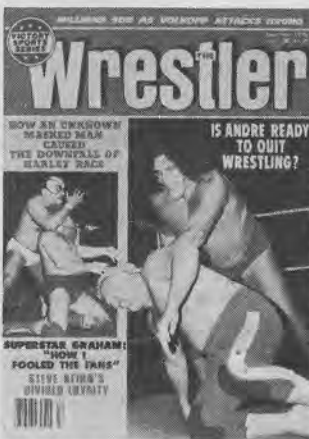
May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

September 1979/Stories include: Superstar Graham, Cyclone Negro, Greg Gagne, Mil Mascaras.

October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.



DECEMBER 1979

December 1979/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.

January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Suka, Brisco.

February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

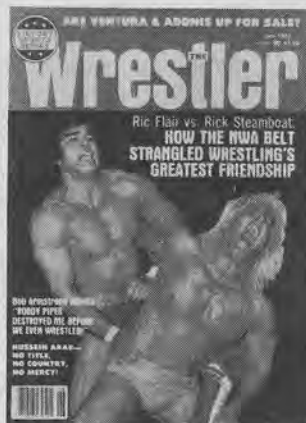
October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.



JUNE 1982

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

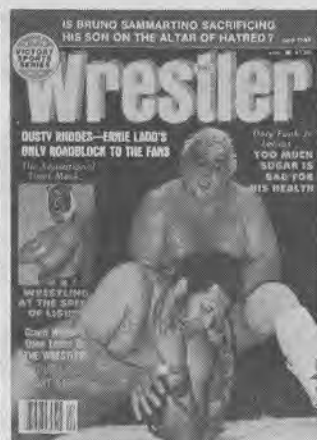
October 1982/Stories include: Suka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Suka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Suka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.



APRIL 1983

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

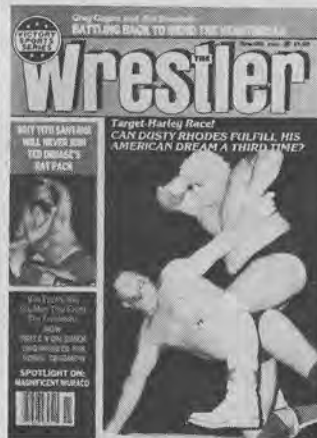
July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Brisco.

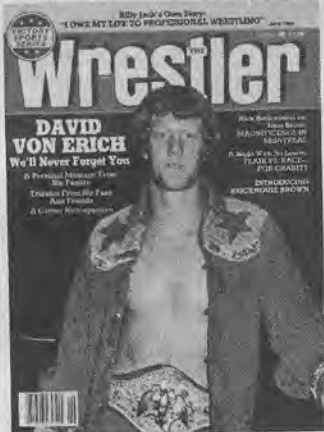
October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Brisco, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.



NOVEMBER 1983

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.
January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.
March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.
April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.
May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.



JUNE 1984

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.
July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.
August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.
September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.
October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.
November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.
December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.
January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloff.
February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.
March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.
May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

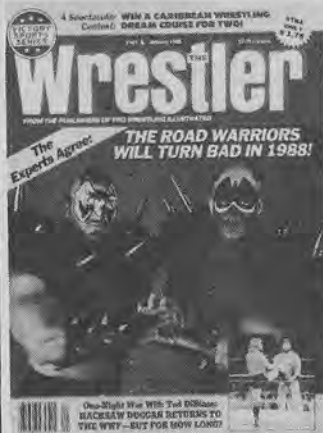
June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.
July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.



AUGUST 1985

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.
September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.
October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.
November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.
December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.
January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.
February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.
March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.
April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.
May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.
June 1986/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.
July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.
August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.
October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.
November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.
December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.
January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.
February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.
March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.
May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.
June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.
July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.
August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.
September 1987/Stories include: Koloff, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.
October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.
November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.
December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.
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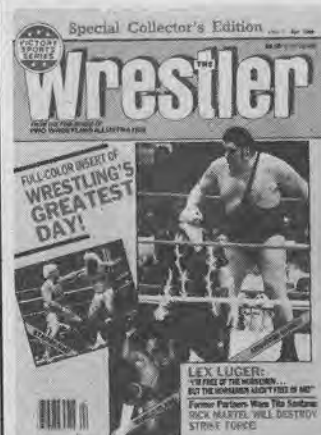


JANUARY 1988



FEBRUARY 1988

February 1988/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.
March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.



APRIL 1988

April 1988/Special issue! Starrcade '87, Survivor Series, AWA & World Class. Also: Strike Force, Luger, Rockers.
May 1988/Luger-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Hart, Fantastics, DiBiase.

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INTRODUCING SOLOMON GRUNDY

"**S**EE THAT RIGHT thar," said Solomon Grundy, a tear coming to the eye of this 6-foot tall, 465-pound mountain of a man. "That right thar is the Daniel Boone National Forest. My maw says my paw poked his head in thar one day and never came back. But when I got older and larned somethin', I figured out for muhself that my paw was a womanizer."

So began the education of Grundy, now 26 years old and making his mark as one of the most popular wrestlers in World Class Championship Wrestling. He's already a star in the modern metropolis of Dallas, nearly 1,000 miles away from his little hometown of Salt Gum, Kentucky, just a few miles away from the edge of the Daniel Boone National Forest.

"Ya see, I never left the farm much when I was a boy, and I always thought the Forest was, you know, the way they talk about the Black Forest over in Germany," Grundy explained. "But you know, they got towns and all that in the National Forest. It's not like a big dark forest with bears and all that, although they got snakes, and a friend of mine once told me he saw some kind of prehistoric monster in there, like that thing in the movies from Bogey Creek."

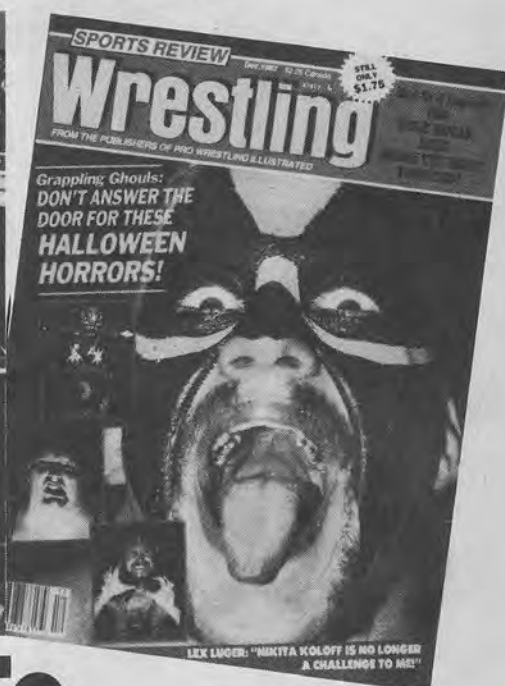
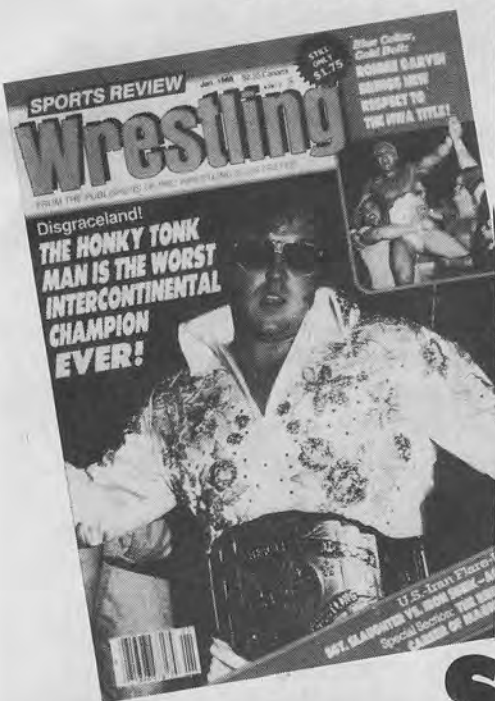
Actually, tall tales such as that traveled quickly in Salt Gum, where most people work their farms and,
(Continued on page 20)



A mountain of a man from the hill country. That's Solomon Grundy, a Kentucky farm boy who is making it big—really big—in the World Class area.

The latest prospect to hit the World Class area is a 465-pound farmer boy from the little town of Salt Gum, Kentucky, who grew up wrestling hogs and plowing the fields—without a plow. From out of the shadows of the Daniel Boone National Forest comes Solomon Grundy!

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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)



Grundy puts his opponent down with a weighty shoulderblock. Because of his size, Grundy is having trouble finding competition. But he's found a lot of fans.

when Grundy was growing up, very few owned television sets. As Grundy said, his father ran off when he was young, leaving Solomon, his mother, two brothers, and three sisters to tend the farm.

The Grundy family was so poor they couldn't even afford a plow. Instead, they used Solomon who, by the time he was 14 years old, weighed nearly 300 pounds.

"I had the strength of two mules," said Grundy. "I used to be able to plow those fields all day, although it got a little messy after the cows came in from grazin'. After a few years of that kind of work, I got to workin' barefoot, 'cause I used to ruin my work boots, but I got to have the strength of three mules. Now, I got four, at least!"

Grundy, his brothers, sisters, and his lonely mother, used to get up at 4:30 a.m. each day. Grundy would work the fields. His sisters would milk the cows. His mother would collect eggs from the chickens and cook breakfast. And his brothers? "They were the laziest," says Grundy. "I used to do *all* the work. That's how I got this strong. That, and wrestling the hogs. They used to make a real mess, so I'd slam 'em in the mud and all that. I used to have a darned good time with them hogs."

One might conclude that Grundy saw wrestling on TV and used the hogs as substitute wrestling partners, but Grundy didn't have a TV. His family couldn't afford one. "One day, 'rasslin' came to Corbin, which is about 20 miles from here the way the crow flies," Grundy remembers, "but we couldn't afford to go. I'd heard about all the 'rasslin' stars and I wanted to see how strong they were, but we had to stay home. I bet I coulda beaten any of 'em."

The turning point in Grundy's life came on his 25th birthday, when he decided to leave the security of the farm in Salt Gum and go out on his own. Grundy said goodbye to his family and hitched a ride on the back of a pickup truck. As it turned out, the truck was going to San Antonio, Texas, where Grundy got off and looked for a job.

"I ended up workin' in a fillin' station down there," said Grundy, "That was easy work compared to the farm, though I messed up a time or two at the start. One time, some pretty lady drove up and asked me to look under her car to see if there was an oil leak or somethin'. I guess she wanted me to slide under the car, but instead I just lifted up the darn thing from the front. She was scared like a chicken on a choppin' block and I got myself one chewin' out from the boss."

One day, wrestler Tom Jones

drove into the gas station and spotted Grundy. He was overwhelmed by Grundy's size and talked him into taking wrestling lessons. "He was one of the biggest men I've ever seen," said Jones, who is also a trainer at the World Class wrestling school. "I knew we were only talking about raw materials, but he definitely seemed to have the tools."

In November 1987, Grundy made his pro debut in Dallas against Iceman Parsons. Although Grundy appeared to have a tremendous size and strength advantage over the 250-pound Parsons, he was shocked when Iceman tossed him over the top rope. Grundy, who was awarded the match by disqualification, gained an immediate respect for wrestlers and continued to work at his new craft.

Solomon gained national attention when he befriended Tommy Rogers and Bobby Fulton, The Fantastics. When World Class officials ordered a lumberjack match pitting The Fantastics against World Class Texas tag champs Jack Victory and John Tatum, Rogers and Fulton were asked to pick the lumberjacks. They chose only one man, Grundy, who helped them win the bout.

Despite his popularity, Grundy has run into problems in the World Class area. Quite simply, there's no one big enough for him to wrestle. At press time, World Class officials were busily trying to sign some superheavyweights for him to wrestle. But size isn't Grundy's only asset. Although he has a lethal big splash, which he calls his "Kentucky flapjack," Grundy can also execute a fine flying elbowsmash and, occasionally, even a flying dropkick.

"This'sure as heck beats slammin' hogs and plowin' fields," said a smiling Grundy. "I'm just gonna keep on tryin' to become a better wrestler while they find somebody to try and beat me. I'm happy as all heck to be here." □

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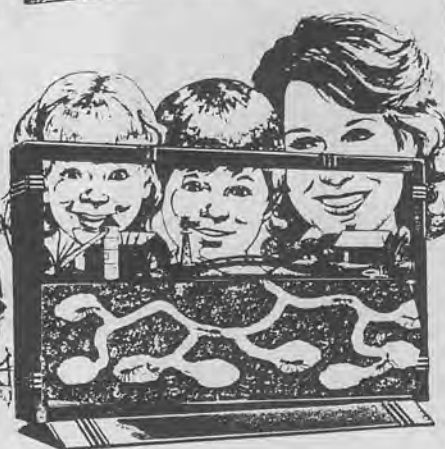
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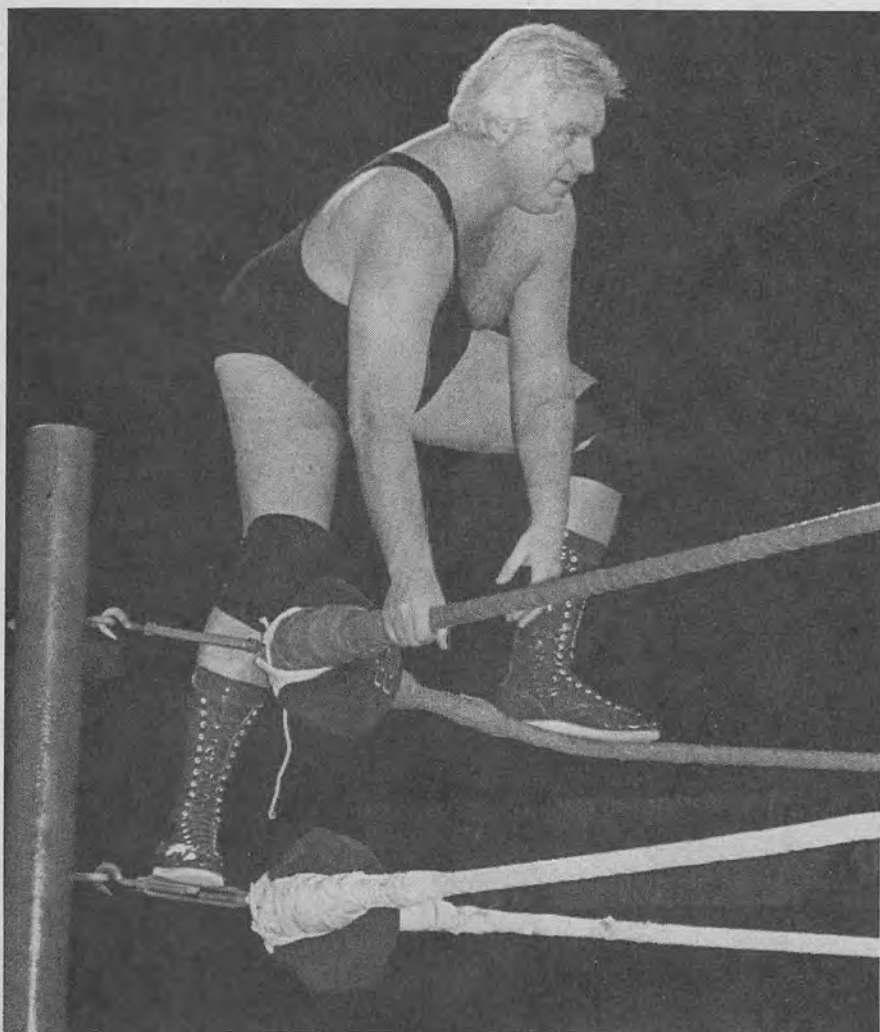
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Q&A

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Q: It's been a long time since you've donned the tights, but you're scheduled to team with The Islanders against The British Bulldogs and Koko B. Ware at WrestleMania IV. It seems that this is a bit of a mismatch, because the Bulldogs and Koko B. Ware are three wrestlers while The Islanders and yourself are two wrestlers and a manager. Why are you doing it? Why are you taking this risk?

A: Why am I doing it? You're asking me why I'm doing it? That's very simple. The reason I'm getting involved in this six-man tag team match is to prove to everyone that The British Bulldogs are spreading a bunch of lies. They have the nerve to think I stole their dog, but I wouldn't go near that mutt.

Q: You're denying that you played a part in the kidnapping of Matilda when everybody in the arena saw it and everybody who was watching on TV saw it, too? It was as plain as could be. The Islanders grabbed Matilda, ran down the runway, through the hallway, and out the door. It's been documented. It's on tape.

A: I'm telling you that I didn't do nothing with that dog. What I did was very simple. The dog was near the ring—which is against the rules, I might add. I took the dog away from the ring and took it out to the parking lot. When I got there, this mutt, this rabid, flea-infested mutt,



BOBBY HEENAN

ALWAYS ONE OF the most controversial figures in wrestling, manager Bobby "The Brain" Heenan has recently become even more involved in several WWF scandals. It all started in January 1987 when Heenan took Andre the Giant into his camp and got him a match against World champion Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania III. Although Andre lost, the feud raged on. Last summer, Andre resurfaced with Heenan and demanded another match against Hogan.

Meanwhile, Ted DiBiase was making his name known in the WWF and, in January, bought Andre's contract from Heenan. The story of the Andre-Hogan rematch on February 5 is well-known, but think about this: It never would have happened if Heenan didn't sell Andre's contract to DiBiase.

Heenan, known to his enemies as "The Weasel," has also gained a reputation as a dognapper. During a match against The British Bulldogs, Heenan and The Islanders abducted the Bulldogs' mascot, Matilda, from ringside. The Bulldogs' trusty dog has since been returned, but the feud is hotter than ever. The Bulldogs and Koko B. Ware were scheduled to wrestle The Islanders and Heenan at WrestleMania IV on March 27 in Atlantic City.

Heenan spoke to a large gathering of reporters during a WrestleMania IV press conference at New York City's Grand Hyatt Hotel on February 22.



Bobby Heenan rarely dons the tights (opposite page), but he's planned on teaming with The Islanders (above) to wrestle The British Bulldogs and Koko B. Ware at WrestleMania IV.

went to attack us, so we jumped into the limousine and left.

Q: You're saying that Matilda tried to attack you? That's hard to believe. Matilda *isn't* an attack dog. She's simply The British Bulldogs' mascot, and she's only there for inspirational purposes.

A: Don't tell me Matilda isn't an attack

dog. That dog is an attack dog, and there's no doubt about it. That mutt is rabid. He went for me, he tried to bite my leg. Now let me tell you something: I don't like dogs, I don't like cats, I just don't like animals. And this is a warning for Koko B. Ware: If he brings that bird of his, Frankie or whatever, to ringside at

WrestleMania IV, he might wind up in a bag of Shake 'n' Bake.

Q: Hearing malicious talk like that, it's hard to believe that you're as innocent as you say you are. How can you sit there and talk like that?

A: I'm telling you that I'm totally innocent, and so are The Islanders, of any dognapping. Listen, this is all I hear about anymore. Matilda this, Matilda that, who cares about the stupid dog? *Isn't it a shame? The poor doggy is sick?* Well, I don't give a damn about Matilda. That mutt tried to attack me!

Q: Let's get away from this dognapping business for a moment and talk about something a little more important. You're right in the middle of the Andre-Hogan-DiBiase World title controversy and, in fact, none of this would've happened if you didn't sell Andre the Giant's contract to DiBiase. First of all, how much money did DiBiase pay you for Andre's contract?

A: That's none of your business. How much money I received from Ted DiBiase is *my* business. What I do with the money is *my* business. My relationship with Andre the Giant and Ted DiBiase is *my* business and it's none of *your* business.

Q: It's very easy to say that, but the World championship is everybody's business and you can't ignore the fact that if you hadn't sold the contract to DiBiase, you could be managing the World champion right

now, something you've always wanted to do. Now you have the money but no championship . . .

A: Which just suits me fine. If Hulk Hogan had accepted Ted DiBiase's generous offer in the first place, then he'd at least be a rich man. But what does he have now? He has no title and he doesn't have the money. All he has are these stupid little Hulkamaniacs who run around waving their Hulk Hogan signs and going crazy when the guy flexes a little muscle, but you tell me what that's worth? The man is stupid. Hulk Hogan is a stupid man. He just didn't know what was good for him and now he's left with nothing at all. To tell you the truth, he's getting what he deserves.

Q: What are you talking about?

A: I'm talking about **WrestleMania III**.

Q: You're still talking about **WrestleMania III**? That's ancient history. Certainly, we've been through the tapes a million times and Andre and Hogan have met again since then. Why are you still harping on **WrestleMania III**?

A: Because Andre the Giant pinned Hulk Hogan at **WrestleMania III**, right in front of 93,000 fans and millions more around the world, and



Heenan's hatred for Hulk Hogan goes back to at least 1982, when Hogan attacked "The Brain" during an AWA title match against Nick Bockwinkel (above). Heenan joins Andre the Giant at a press conference (bottom). Hogan slams Andre at **WrestleMania III** (opposite page). Heenan still insists that Andre pinned Hogan early in that match.

he was robbed by the referee, who was scared of "Hulkamania." Andre had Hogan down on the mat. We all saw it. Hogan tried to pick up Andre for a bodyslam, but he couldn't do it and he fell backwards. Andre fell on top of him, Hogan's shoulders were clearly pinned to the mat, and the referee counted one-two-three. Everybody saw him come down with the three-count, but he

didn't have the guts to give Andre the belt. Like I said, they're scared of "Hulkamania," whatever that is.

Q: I imagine you're going to tell me that Andre pinned Hogan on *The Main Event*.

A: He did.

Q: How can you say that?

A: Did the referee give the three-count?

Q: Yes, but it was an imposter referee and Hogan lifted his shoulders off





the mat at the two-count. The replays clearly show that Hogan lifted his shoulder in time.

A: That might be so, but there's another factor you don't take into account: Hulk Hogan is a very big man, even I'll admit that, and he has very wide shoulders. Although I don't deny that he lifted his shoulder off the mat, he didn't lift his *entire* shoulder off the mat. He has very big shoulders, and from what I could tell, he still had part of his shoulder on the mat. The man was down for the count. He was beaten.

Q: But even if Andre did beat Hogan, it really didn't matter because he turned around and handed the belt to DiBiase, which, as Jack Tunney has already ruled, was in violation of the rules. The way I see it, the only one who came out of this with anything is you. DiBiase spent all his money and got nothing. Andre won the belt and then gave it away. Hogan doesn't have his title and he doesn't have the money, although he certainly has some self-respect. You made out like a bandit.

A: That's right, and you know why? Because I'm smarter than everybody else. I'm smarter than all these idiots in this room right here. I've beaten everybody at their own game. ☐

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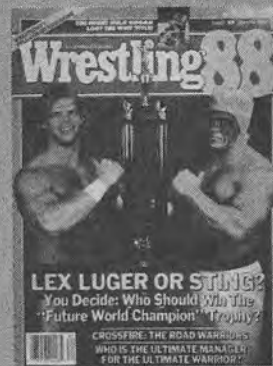
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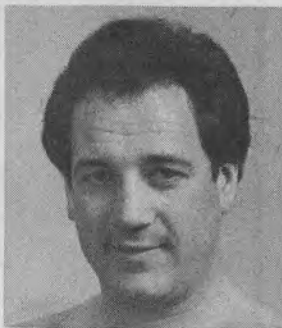
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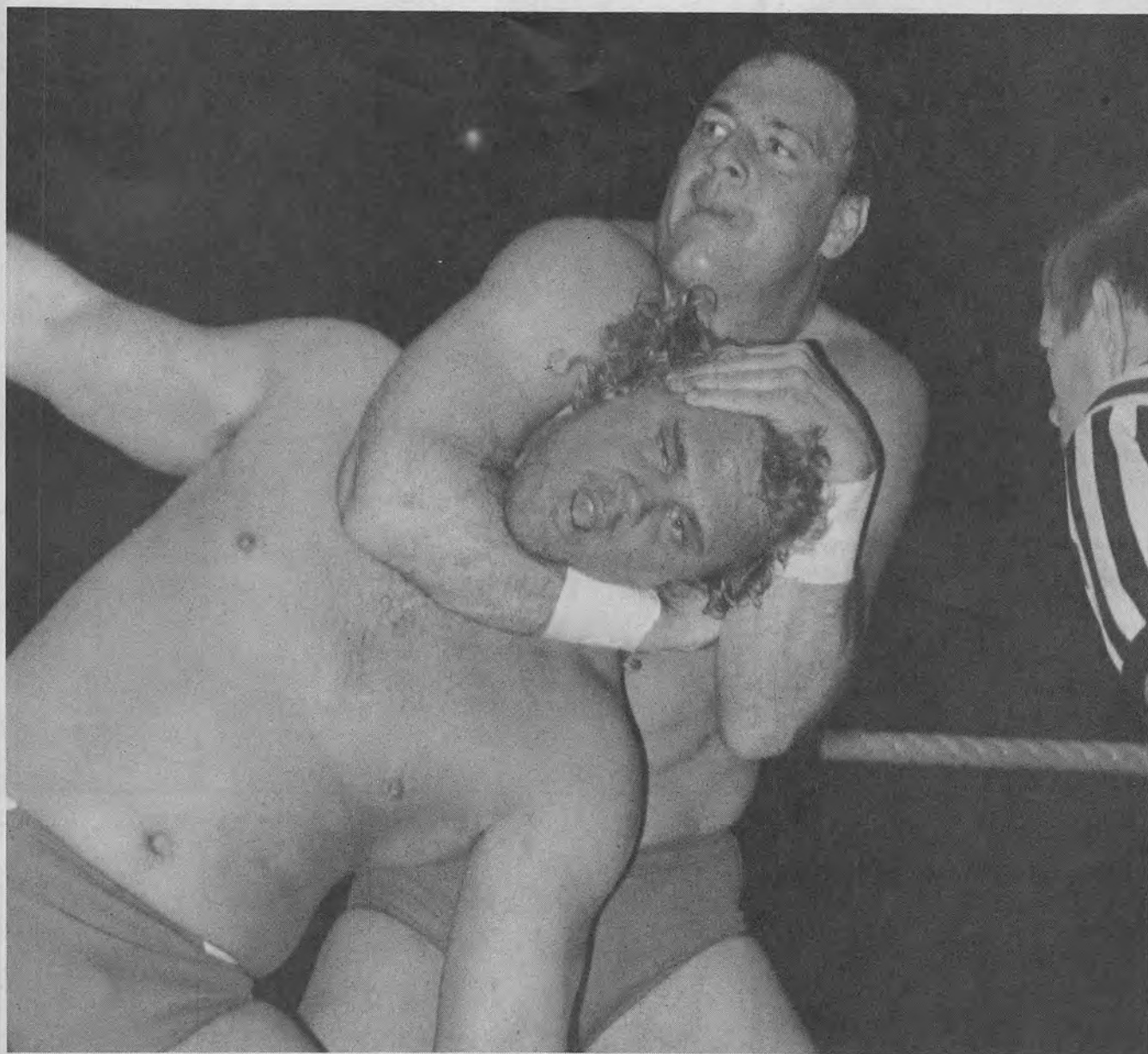
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THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES



GREG GAGNE

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Greg Gagne puts the sleeper on AWA World champion Curt Hennig. Controversy has surrounded almost every one of their title matches. Only a short time ago, Gagne and Hennig were the best of friends; now, they continue a feud started by their fathers more than 20 years ago.



CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"Lemme tell ya something about Greg Gagne, daddy, the man is not flamboyant, but he somehow manages to get the job done. He's not flashy like the Captain, but he just gets into that ring and wrestles his heart out. The man has great scientific ability, but there's a good reason why he can't win the AWA World title: no killer instinct. Look at him! He looks like Howdy Doody! I wouldn't mind toughening him up a bit!"

Capt. Lou Albano, long known as "The Guiding Light," has guided 13 tag teams to an unmatched 16 WWF World tag team titles.



KILLER KOWALSKI

"Greg Gagne's biggest mistake was becoming a professional. He was fine as an amateur, he knows all the moves, he has great athletic ability, but the man can't wrestle in the gutter. That's why he can't beat Hennig and that's also why Hennig is so much better than he used to be. Hennig learned that ya gotta be willing to bleed a little in this sport. This ain't checkers, it's wrestling, a man's sport, and I don't think Gagne is a real man."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.



PROF. TORU TANAKA

"Greg Gagne is, how you Americans say, typical goody-two-shoes wrestler. He pay much too much attention to fans and hides behind his daddy all the time. Verne Gagne was great wrestler. He held many AWA World championships, but his son is not chip off old block. He is disgrace because he cannot beat family's enemy. In my country, he would be sent away from family until he come back and show he can beat enemy. Until then, he must hide his head in disgrace."

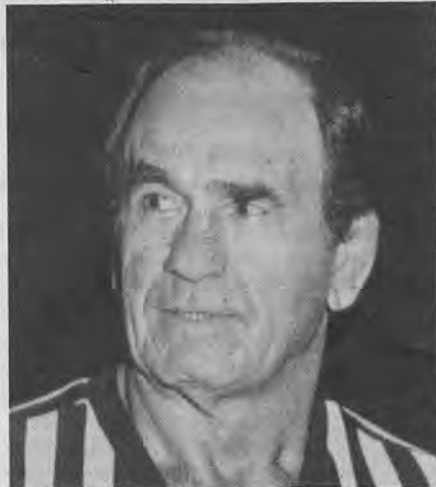
Prof. Tanaka, a three-time co-holder of the WWF World tag team title with Mr. Fuji, is currently a successful actor.



LARRY HENNIG

"Well whaddya know, it's Verne Gagne's little boy we're talking about this month. Let me tell ya something, it would take an X-ray to see little Greggy when he's hiding behind his daddy! I've never seen a more disgraceful excuse for a wrestler in my entire life. The man has the moves down pat, but he doesn't have it inside. He doesn't have what it takes to beat a Hennig. My boy Curt has already taught him a lesson or two, and there's more to come."

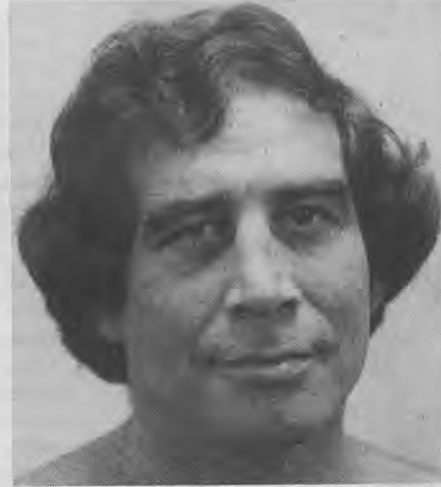
Larry "The Ax" Hennig is a four-time former AWA World tag team champion; he held three of those titles with Harley Race.



LOU THESZ

"I like Greg. I liked his father—certainly Verne was one of the best wrestlers of all time—and although I don't think Greg is nearly as good, he's still a very capable wrestler. First of all, he always comes into the ring prepared, which is very important when you're wrestling a man like Curt Hennig, who also is very skilled. They say Greg can't beat Curt, but he pinned him in Minneapolis, and I think he can pin him again."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.



JACK BRISCO

"One of the things about the AWA is that, unlike the WWF or the NWA, scientific ability usually wins out over brawling and rulebreaking. I know Hennig didn't win anything until he changed his style, but he's basically an outstanding scientific wrestler. Greg is good, but I think Curt has an edge in that department. Greg's going to have to come up with something different that Curt has never seen if he's going to win the title."

Jack Brisco is a two-time former NWA World champion, and a three-time former NWA World tag team champion with brother Jerry.

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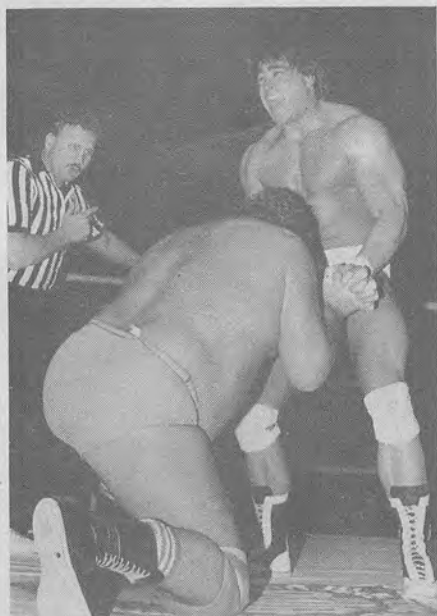
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"Anything Martel Can Do, I Can Do Better" **WHY TOM ZENK *MUST* WIN** **THE AWA WORLD TITLE**

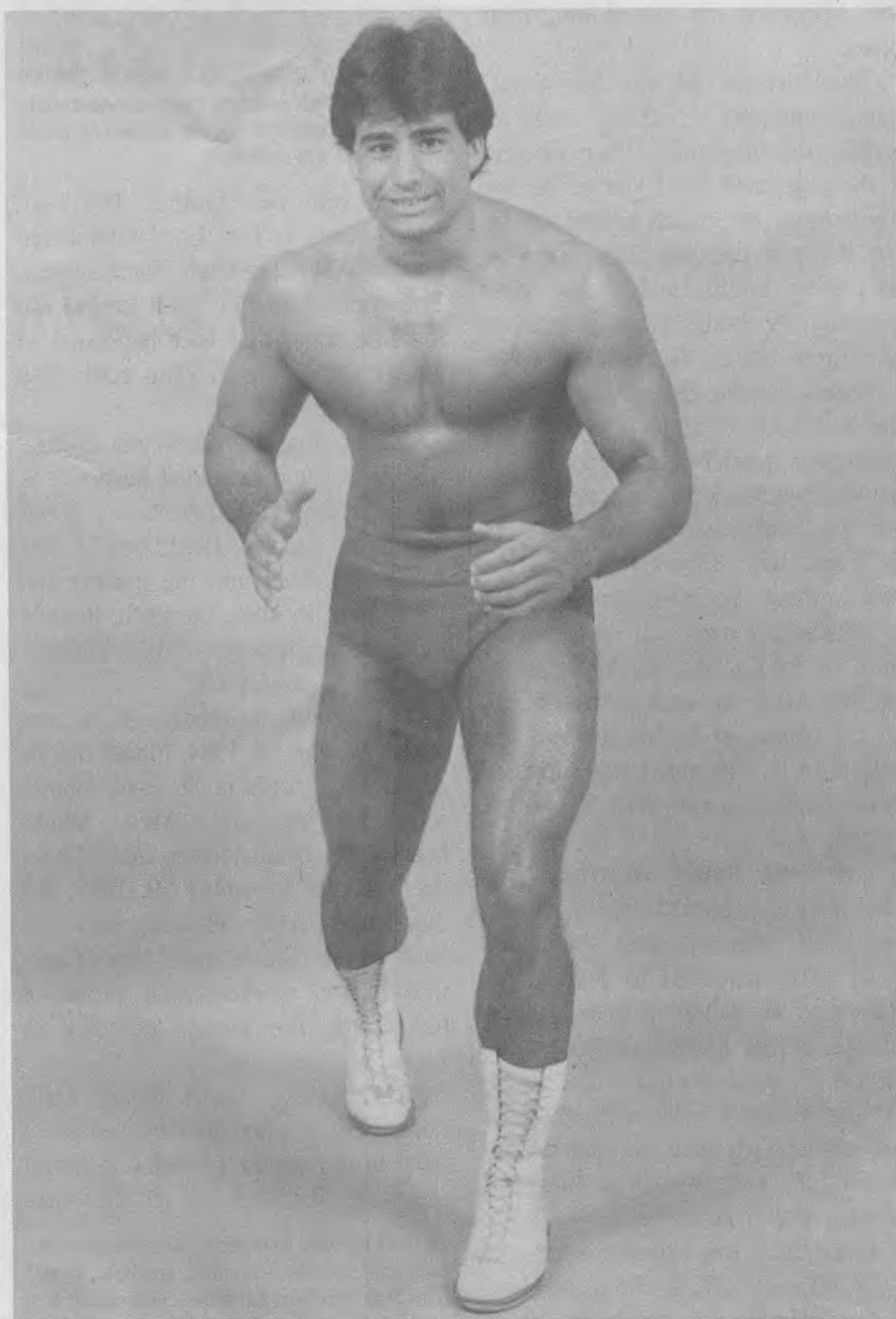
As one-half of The Can-Am Connection in the WWF, Tom Zenk was forced to take a back seat to the more experienced Rick Martel. Now that he's in the AWA, Zenk is out to prove that he's just as good as his former partner by winning the World title—just as Martel did!

TOM ZENK IS smiling again, something that couldn't be said about the handsome young Minnesota native last summer. His walk is brisk and he struts down the streets of Minneapolis with his head held high. "It's pretty hard to grow," said Zenk, "when you're constantly in someone else's shadow. I feel like I've been given a second chance in this sport. I'm *free*, man!"

Last year at this time, Zenk was a member of the most popular, and, arguably, the most talented tag team in the WWF. Zenk and Rick Martel, The Can-Am Connection, were adored by female fans, idolized by male fans, and



Tom Zenk, out to make a big name for himself after leaving the WWF, wins a test of strength with veteran Billy Robinson.



were taking dead aim at WWF World tag team champions The Hart Foundation. Success appeared well within their reach.

But the Can-Ams fell short.

Before long, the labels started to haunt them. Critics called the Can-Ams overrated; many of their fans called them underachievers. But it wasn't the Can-Ams' inability to win the belts that haunted Zenk.

"What really rubbed me the wrong way," said Zenk, "is that I always had to take the blame. Everybody said, 'Well, Martel was AWA champion and he's had the WWF tag belts, so it must be Zenk's fault. He doesn't have the experience and he's slowing them down.'"

"Well, let me tell you something," Zenk continued. "Nothing could be further from the truth. When we won, it always seemed like I was in the ring for most of the match setting up the pin, doing all the hard work, and Martel finished off the match. And when we lost, everybody always pointed at me. Even Martel. *That's* why I left."

Zenk's sudden disappearance from the WWF last June took even Martel by surprise. Martel claimed that he had no idea where Zenk went or why he left, but Zenk says otherwise.

"I told him, 'Listen Rick, this just isn't working. You're constantly trying to overshadow me.' You know, at the start, up in Canada, he helped me a lot. But when we went to the WWF, he got consumed by his stardom. He wanted to be the star. I was supposed to just back him up. Well, it couldn't be that way."

Zenk was further angered when many people suggested that his leaving the WWF was the best thing that could have happened to Martel. According to this school of thought, Martel was getting bogged down because he had to spend too much time teaching the relatively inexperienced Zenk, and not enough time working on improving his own wrestling skills and devising match strategies.

Then came the ultimate insult.

On October 27 in Syracuse, New York, Strike Force—the team Martel



Zenk, who has recently been concentrating on his strength training, is primed to break Robinson's full-nelson.

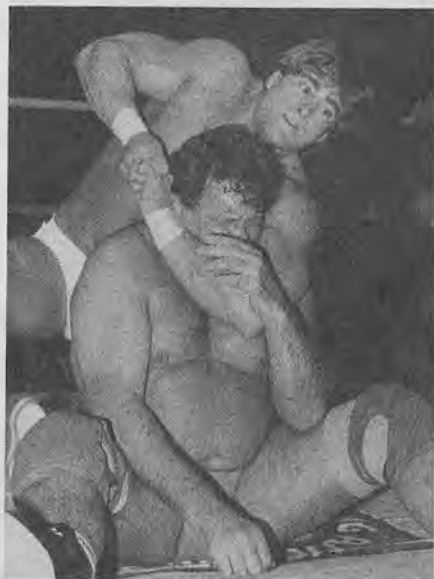
formed with new partner Tito Santana—defeated The Hart Foundation for the WWF tag team championship. The evidence was in: Zenk leaving was the best thing that ever happened to Martel. Zenk was holding back The Can-Am Connection.

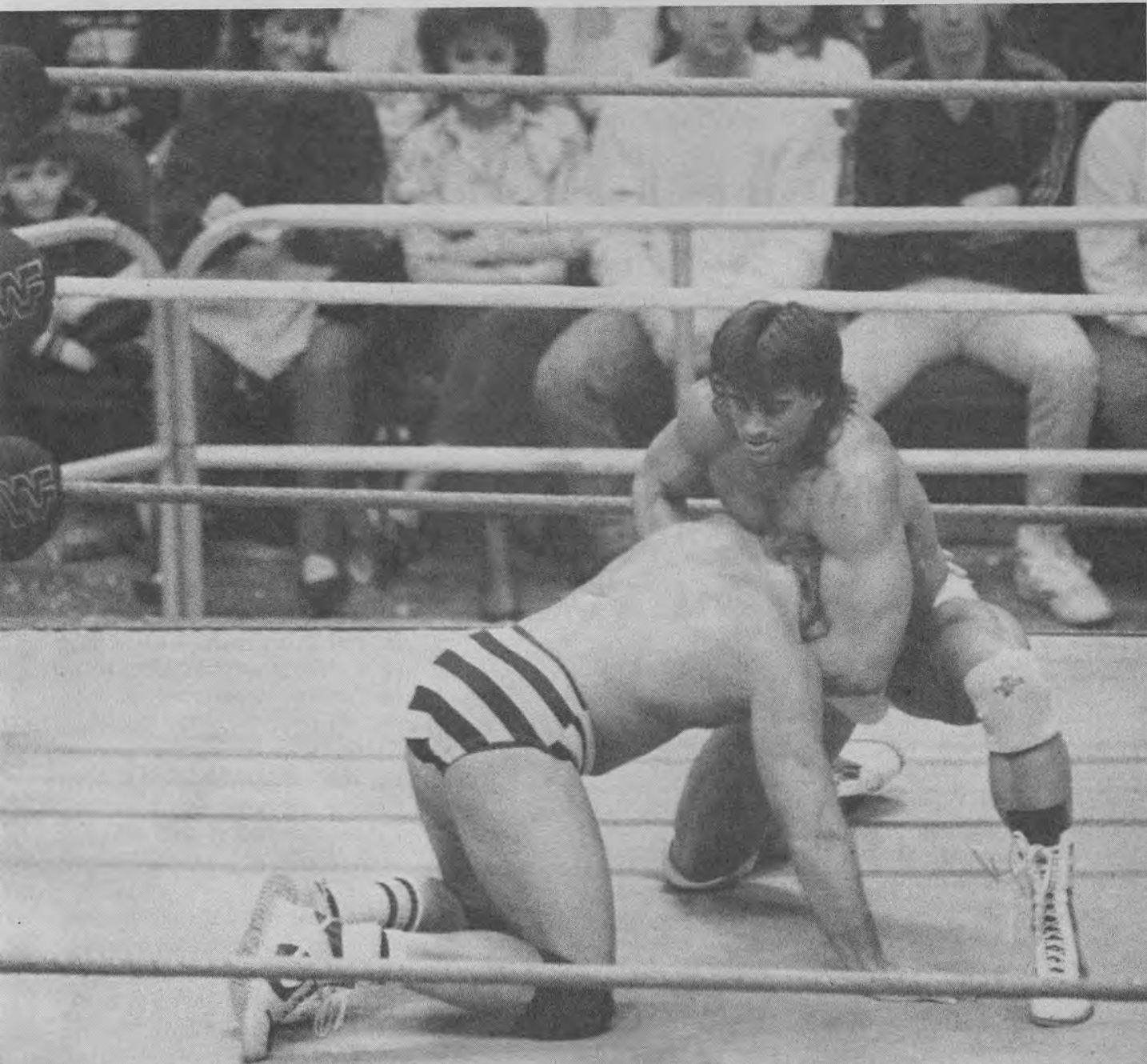
"That's what everybody was saying," said Zenk, "and I couldn't believe it. A couple of days later, I contacted [AWA President] Stanley Blackburn. I just had to get back into the mainstream. If you want to know the truth, though, there was *another* reason why I wanted to come to the AWA."

That reason is rather easy to surmise. On May 13, 1984, Martel defeated Jumbo Tsuruta in St. Paul, Minnesota, to win the AWA World heavyweight championship. Martel held the belt until December 29, 1985, the third-longest AWA title reign ever (behind Verne Gagne and Nick Bockwinkel), and is exceedingly proud of his record. *Too* proud, according to Zenk.

"It's all I ever heard about," Zenk said. "Now, I admit that he has every right to be proud of being a world champion. It's what we all strive for."

Zenk chinlocks Robinson, who poses a severe test of his scientific abilities. A win over Robinson would move Zenk closer to a shot at AWA World champion Curt Hennig.





But Martel had an air of superiority about him that made me feel like I was a second-class citizen. Well, I want to show him that if he can win the title, I can, too. It's the only way I can prove to everyone that I'm at least the equal of Martel, if not better. And I think I'm better."

Zenk has, in fact, staked his career on winning the AWA World title from current champion Curt Hennig. Immediately after signing the contract with the AWA, Zenk began watching tapes of every one of Hennig's title matches, especially those against archrival Greg Gagne. His training has been specifically geared toward beating Hennig.

As a member of The Can-Am Connection, Zenk locks up with Jim Brunzell as Rick Martel waits for the tag. The Connection never connected with the WWF tag team title, and Zenk took a lot of the blame.

Zenk, an outstanding aerial wrestler, has worked hard on his "ground game."

"That means I can beat Hennig up high, but when the match gets in close, it's hard for me to use an aerial attack," explained Zenk. "Hennig has a reputation as a rulebreaker, but anybody who's seen his early matches knows that the man is one of the best scientific wrestlers in the sport. If I'm going to beat him, I'm going to have to attack him high *and* low."

Zenk gained invaluable experience for Hennig in a February 4 match against former AWA World tag team champion Billy Robinson, a technical master who hasn't lost his scientific abilities with age. Zenk wrestled Robinson to a 15-minute draw, but later admitted that he was more concerned with learning from Robinson than beating him.

"The goal is Hennig, and I want to learn as much as I can before I wrestle him," said Zenk. "I have something to prove. When I win that World title, I hope Martel is watching."

"I hope he realizes what a mistake he made." □

When Fritz Von Erich became the victim of a brutal quadruple-teaming, his sons rallied to his rescue. And though Angel of Death, Buddy Roberts, and Iceman Parsons were all in on the brutality, it appears that Terry Gordy will have to bear the brunt of Kerry Von Erich's anger!

FANS WHO THINK Kerry Von Erich is incapable of deep-seated anger didn't attend last month's World Class card at the Dallas Sportatorium. Von Erich ripped into Terry Gordy with a vengeance that rocked the arena and sent The Fabulous Freebird reeling back to the dressing room.

Von Erich, who appeared fully recovered from his motorcycle accident, is intent on fulfilling his promise to send Gordy and Buddy Roberts to the same hospital they sent his father just months ago.

In a brutal incident last Christmas night, Iceman Parsons, Gordy, Roberts, and Angel of Death quadruple-teamed the elder Von Erich, handcuffed him to the ring ropes, and beat him mercilessly. Unable to walk, Von Erich had to be assisted from the ring by his sons. He collapsed on the way to the dressing room and was rushed to Baylor Medical Center.

Although he was scheduled that night for a World Class title match, Kerry Von Erich accompanied his father to the hospital. He returned to the arena later that evening and was pinned by World Class champion Al Perez.

Through nearly a decade of well-documented tragedy, including the

Will Terry Gordy Survive...



Kerry Von Erich takes care of Freebird Terry Gordy with his fists (above) and his clawhold (opposite page).

death of three brothers and a rash of career-threatening injuries, the Von Erichs have had no choice but to prioritize their lives. Family became the essential ingredient, their motivating force. All other things, including titles and belts, have taken a back seat—although to listen to Kerry these days is to hear a man consumed by rage and revenge.

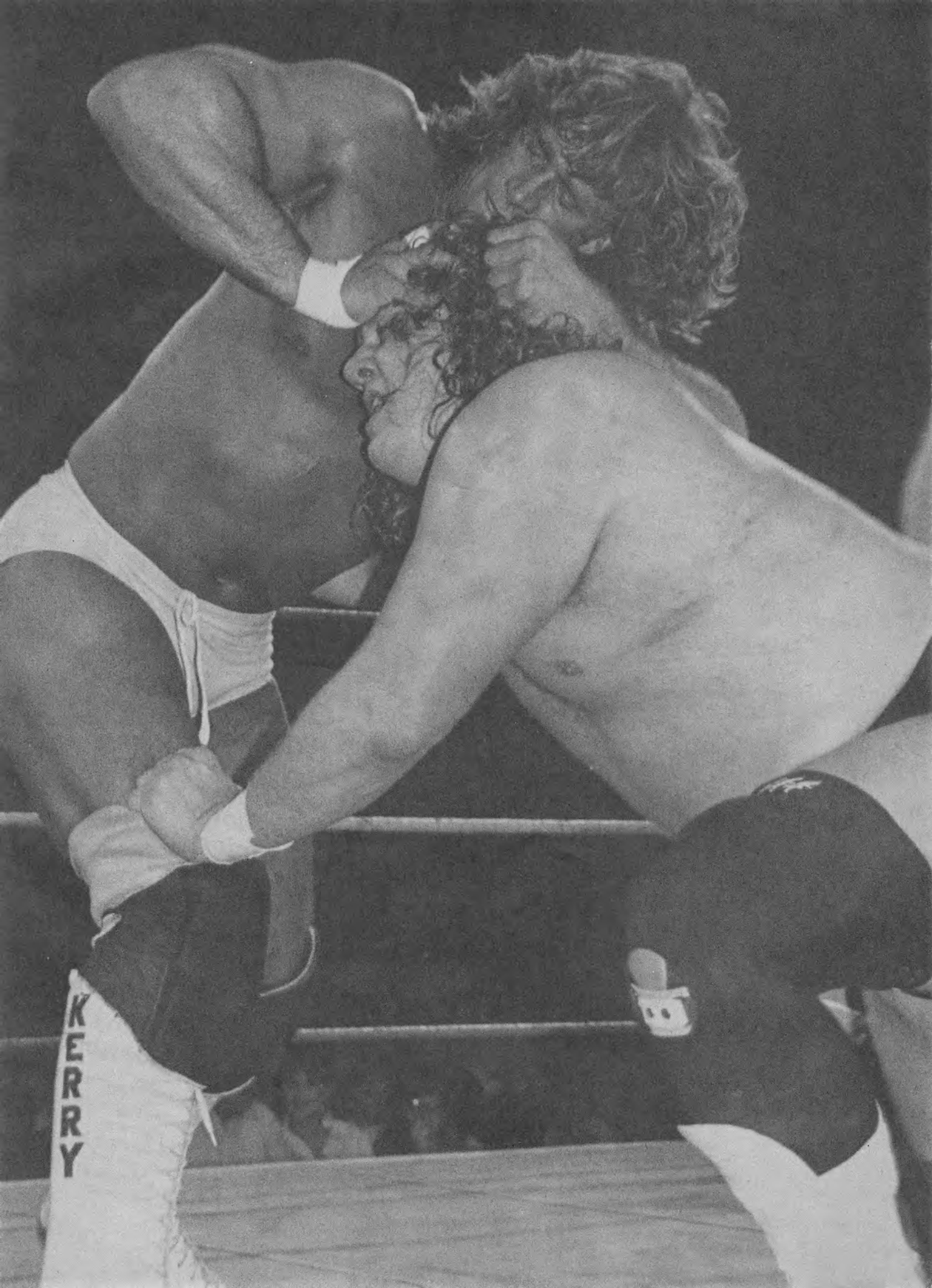
"I'm fed up at people taking potshots at us," he says. "It's one thing to be attacked in the media. We've all grown accustomed to the rantings of cowards like The Freebirds and Gary Hart. That garbage just rolls off our backs. But when cowards draw their fists, I get mad. I draw the line at four wrestlers who gang up on a man handcuffed to the ropes."

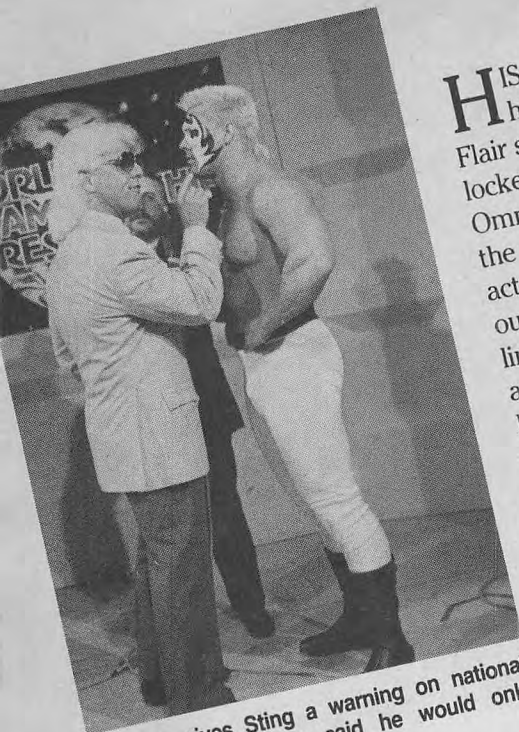
Note that Kerry did not describe his father as someone who is incapable of defending himself. Certainly, a beating administered to his father individually by Gordy, Roberts, Angel, or Parsons would rile Kerry, but he would have no choice but to accept it as part of the game.

"Dad is no rookie," he says. "He knows the risks of getting involved. When he agreed to be handcuffed to Gary Hart, he realized the poten-

(Continued on page 54)

KERRY VON ERICH'S DAY OF RAGE!





Ric Flair gives Sting a warning on national television. Flair once said he would only wrestle Sting on TV.

HIS FACE DRIPPING blood and his body bathed in sweat, Ric Flair sat on a stool in front of his locker in the dressing room of The Omni in Atlanta and held court for the usual group of reporters. Uncharacteristically calm, seemingly oblivious to both the crimson flow trickling down his cheek and the trainer attending to the wound just above his eye, the NWA World champion spoke:

"I've had easier matches, fellas," said Flair, "but what counts is that I

still have this belt around my waist. I think I showed every fan and every wrestler here tonight that it's not going to be easy to get this belt from me this time. Like I've said all along, the fifth time will be the last time, because I'm never losing it."

"But Ric," shouted one reporter standing to Flair's side, "what about the interference? What about the pin? Sting had you for at least a five-count, but [referee Tommy] Young was knocked out. You only won because Dillon interfered."

"Untrue."
"How can you say that?"

HOW STING'S WAR WITH RIC FLAIR COULD

Sting, one of the brightest young stars in wrestling, has come close to winning the NWA World title from Ric Flair on several occasions. And the closer he gets to the belt, the closer the Horsemen get to making him their fourth member!

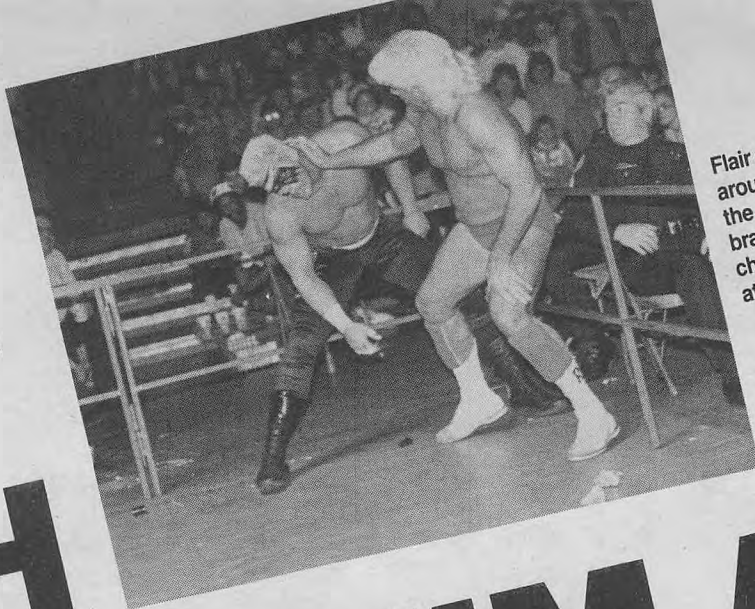
Sting presslams Flair (left). Later, Flair takes control (opposite page). In spite of the current feud, Sting is being considered as the fourth Horseman.



"I won because I'm 'Slick' Ric. I won because I'm the greatest wrestler in the world and I use *all* of my resources. If Sting isn't prepared for what might happen during the course of a match, he shouldn't be in professional wrestling."

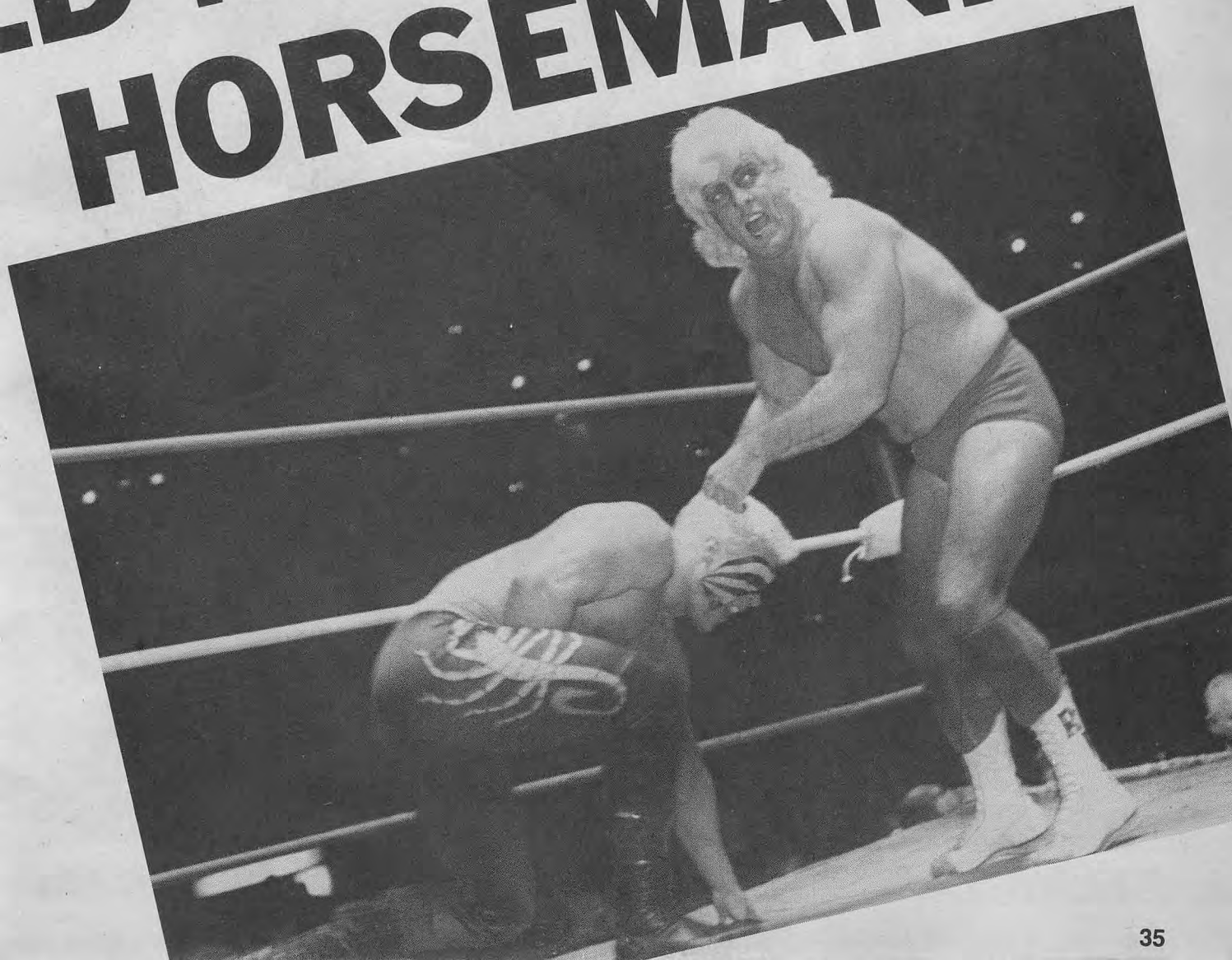
Flair paused for a thoughtful moment before continuing: "Then again, maybe he'd be better off if he joined us instead of fighting us."

(Continued on page 48)



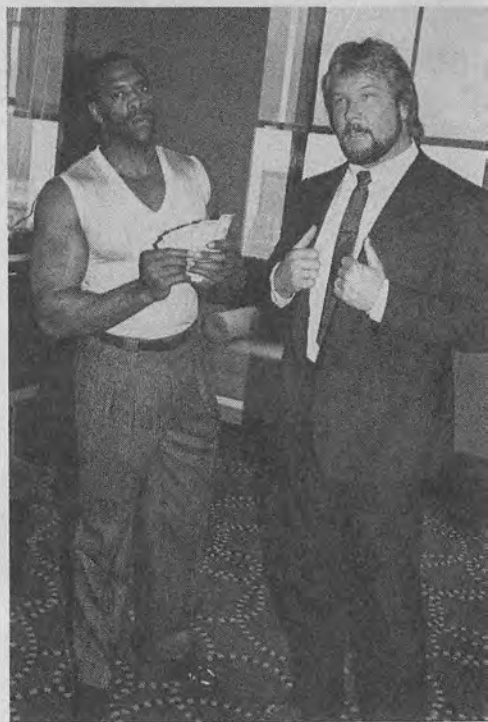
Flair slaps Sting around outside the ring. Sting is brash enough to challenge Flair at every turn.

R WITH D MAKE HIM A HORSEMAN!

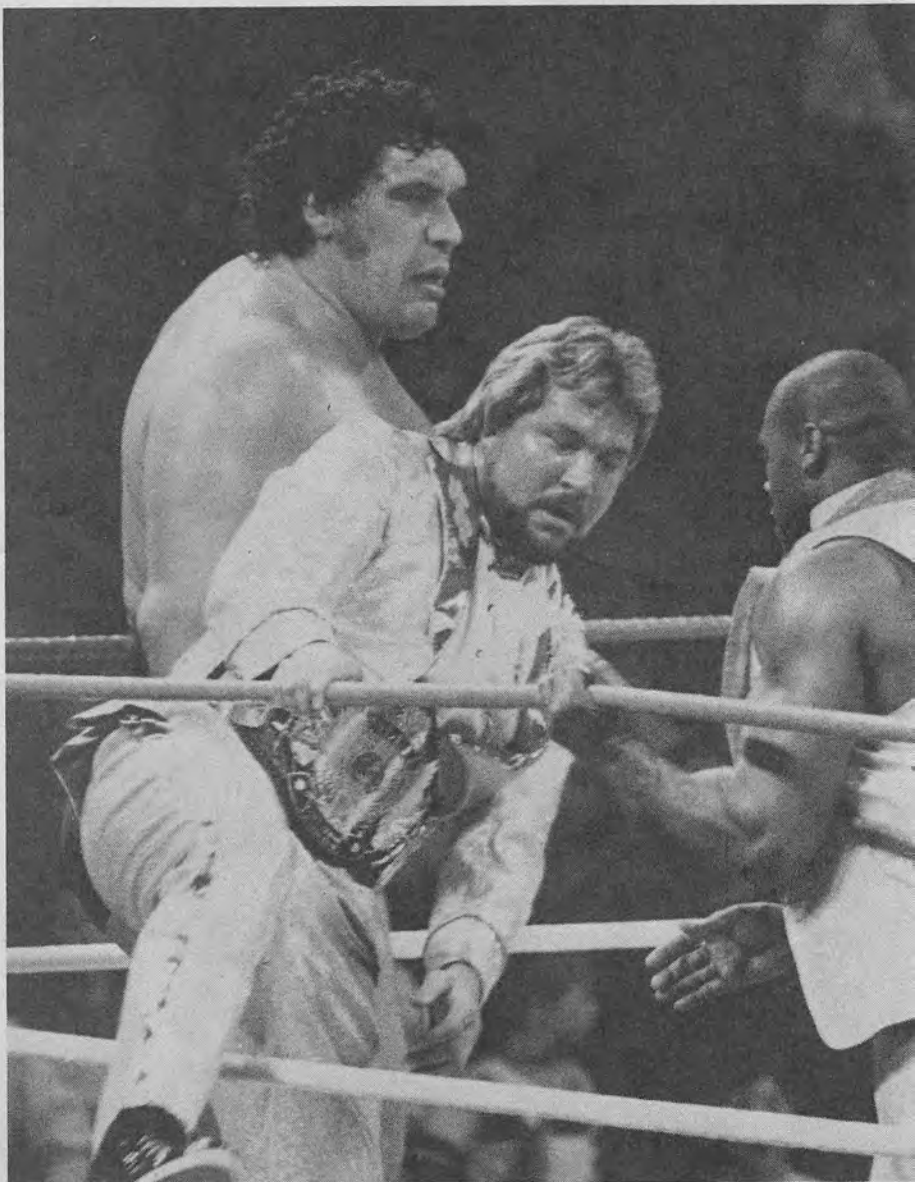


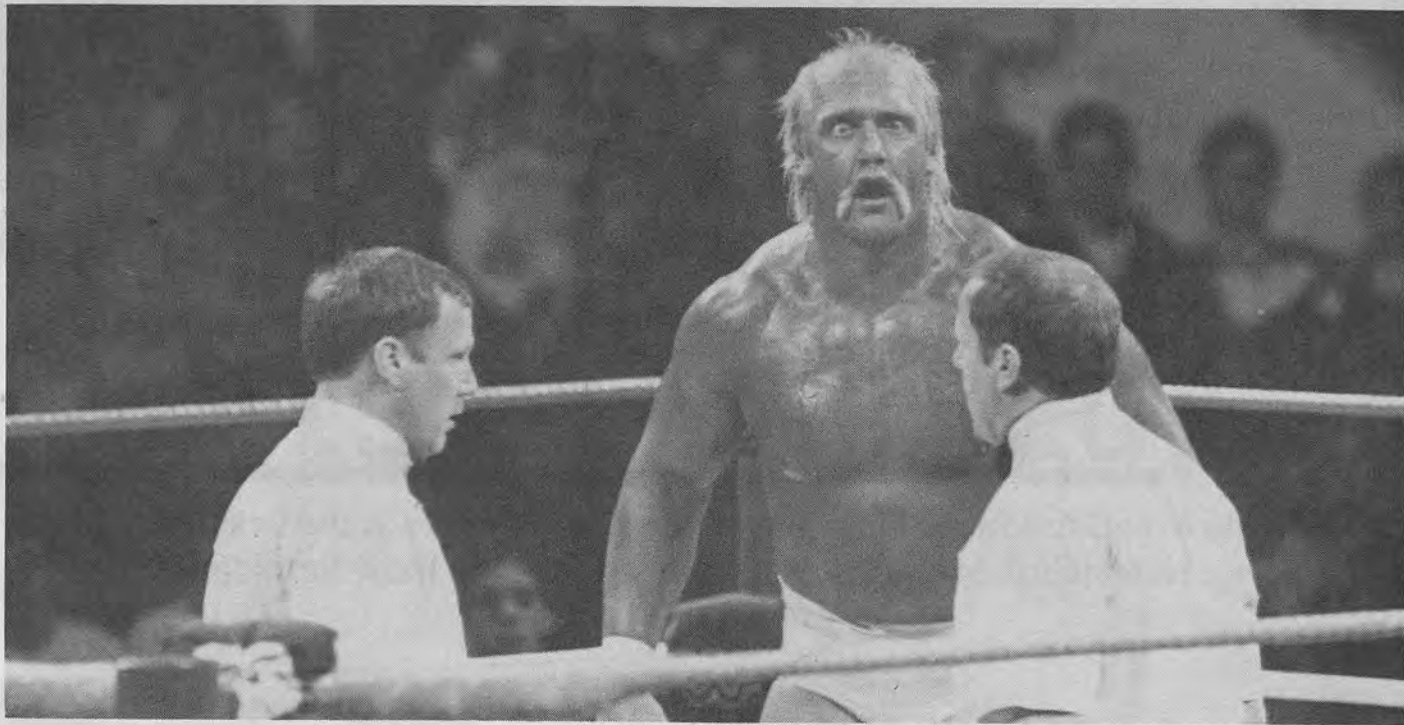
Ted DiBiase spent huge amounts of money to buy the contract of Andre the Giant and to have referee Earl Hebner take the place of his twin brother, David, and then to buy the belt from Andre. But after spending so much, the WWF World title was declared vacant and DiBiase had nothing to show for his greedy efforts!

Money For Nothing:



**TED
DiBIASE
PAYS A
HIGH
PRICE
FOR
HIS
GREED!**





Hulk Hogan is stunned when he sees two referees and wonders which one cost him the WWF World title (above). Meanwhile, Ted DiBiase leaves the ring as champion—or so he thinks (left). Days later, the championship would be declared vacant, rendering DiBiase's efforts to buy the title meaningless.



By Dave Rosenbaum

THE NORTH SHORE of Long Island is lined with spacious brick mansions. Built in the early 1900s on sprawling acres of green grass and slight rolling hills, these magnificent estates overlook The Long Island Sound; on a clear day, one even has a view of southern Connecticut. It's known as The Gold Coast. Some of the richest men in the world live there.

One of those men is Albert J. Alfred, a 79-year-old president of one of the largest investment brokerages in New York City, a man who made his fortune in the late 1920s at the age of 18, when the stock market went bust and blue-chip stocks could be had for pennies. Alfred has lost two wives, a daughter, and several champion show dogs; he's never lost his money.

"And," pronounces Alfred in a powerful voice that belies his age, "I never will. I have learned through the years to invest smartly and always think ahead. You must ask questions at every step of the equation. You cannot discount any possibility, because it will eat you up. I am almost 80 years old, and the value of my assets has

increased every year since I was 18. That, my friend, is no accident."

Alfred invited me to his home for lunch because, as he readily admits, he is one of the most avid wrestling fans in the world. When wrestling went through a boom period in the 1950s, Alfred had already been following the sport for 15 years. When it went through a down period in the early 1960s, Alfred was still there. "In fact," says Alfred with a smile, "wrestling in the early '60s is probably the only *down* thing I've ever stayed with."

As an avid wrestling fan and successful investment broker, Alfred has taken particular interest in the current goings-on in the WWF. Like so many other wrestling fans, he watched in shock on February 5 as Andre the Giant won a controversial pinfall over Hulk Hogan for the WWF World title—then handed the belt over to Ted DiBiase. Days later, he laughed with disdain along with so many other fans as WWF President Jack Tunney took the belt away from DiBiase and ordered a title tournament at WrestleMania IV.

(Continued on page 52)

Nikita Koloff's

Anti-Drug Campaign: **JUST SAY NYET!**

Nikita Koloff has faced his share of powerful enemies in the wrestling ring. Now he's preparing to square off against the most formidable enemy of all: drug abuse!

EIGHT A.M. IS not an active hour for the student body of Andrew Jackson High School. Hallways fill with sluggish bodies, some drifting, a few talking, most slinking like zombies from homeroom toward first-period classes.

Today is an exception. By 7:30, the entire 1,200-member student body, bright-eyed and enthusiastic, is lined up outside the auditorium doors. Everyone is anxious to get the best possible seat for this morning's special assembly. Teachers stare in genuine amazement.

"Who is here?" asks one social studies teacher. "Whitesnake? Tiffany? Someone without any redeeming social value whatsoever must be here to get these kids aroused so early."

The teacher, a 22-year veteran of high school cynicism, is wrong. As the teacher spoke, this morning's special guest was driving from his first speaking engagement, a 6:30 a.m. breakfast meeting at a neighboring junior high school. And there would be eight more appointments following his talk at Andrew Jackson, the last one taking place at 10:45 p.m. in a state 400 miles away.

The social studies teacher would be further interested to know that the guest speaker, motivated not by

money (he is not being paid for his talks) or patriotism (he is not a U.S. citizen), took a two-month leave of absence from his full-time profession to complete this speaking tour of the country's schools and workplaces. His concern was borne from a personal tragedy suffered years earlier and a deep-rooted fear that there is a pervasive menace on the loose threatening the youth of his adopted country as never before.

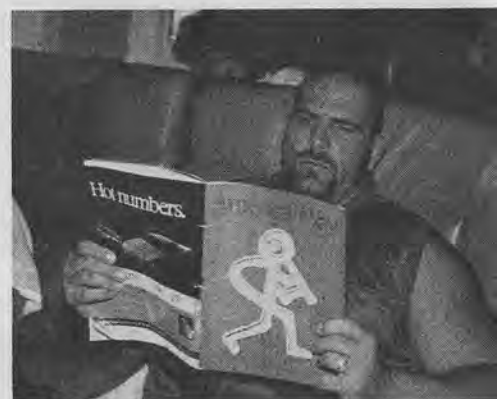
He is Nikita Koloff. And wherever he goes, the message is delivered with the same thundering intensity of a forearm smash: *Say No To Drugs!*

Koloff is met at the school doorway by the principal and an attendance officer. "Mr. Koloff," the attendance officer says, "so far as I can tell, only three students are absent today. I cannot tell you what a remarkable phenomenon that is."

"Perhaps," laughs the principal, "you'd consider a full-time job?"

Koloff acknowledges it all—the compliment, the offer, the handshakes—with a grunt. "Where is auditorium?" he demands. "I'm very busy. I must speak to the children."

He is led backstage where two assistants assemble the equipment for his presentation. Although never

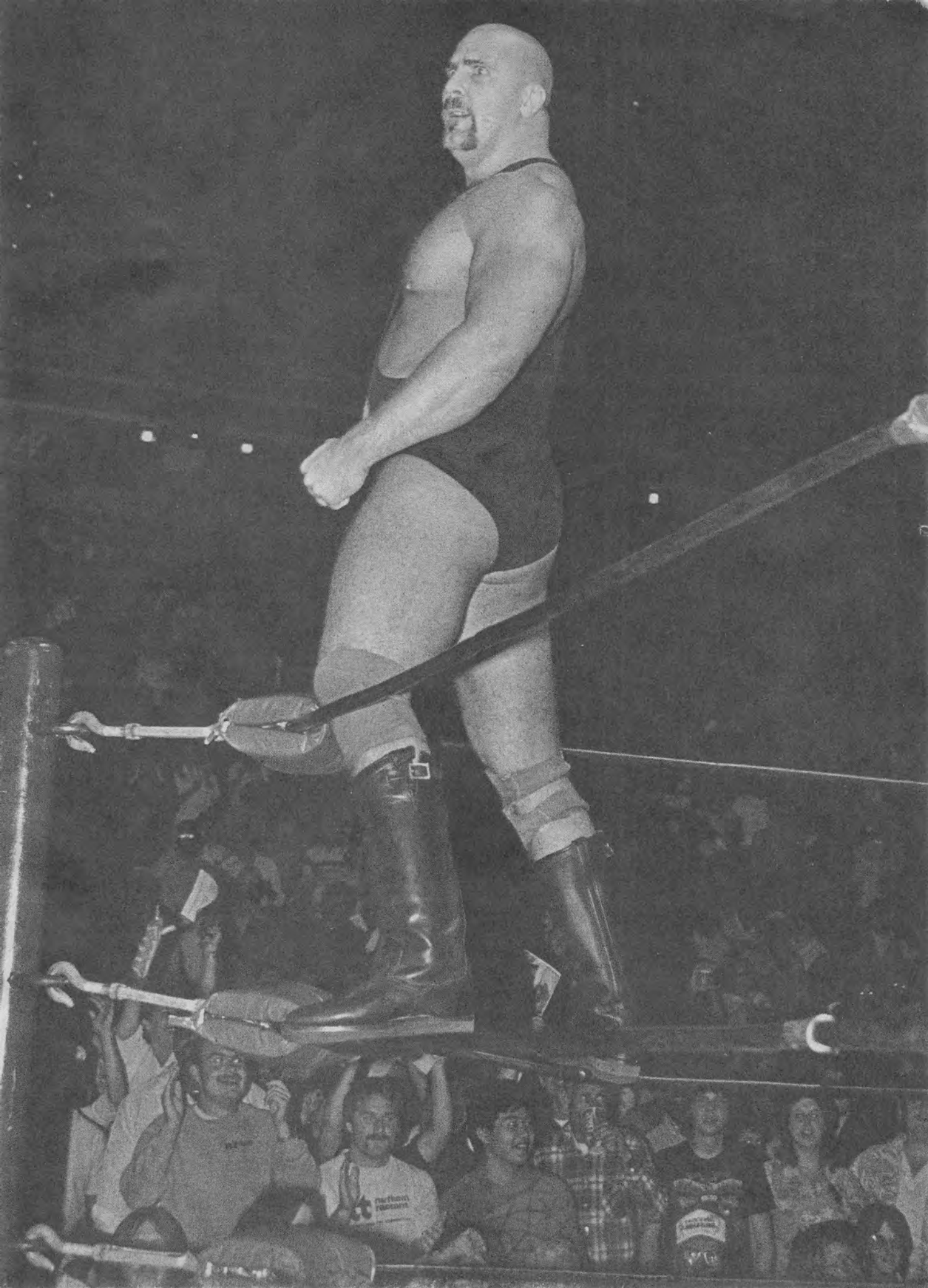


As Nikita Koloff becomes more schooled in the American way of life, he feels confident in taking his anti-drug message to the youth of his adopted country.

schooled in the art of public speaking, Koloff keeps his audiences spellbound through his lecture, as the children will soon discover.

The curtain is raised and the children are silent. A film clip begins. We recognize the teenaged Nikita and some friends wrestling in a large backyard expanse. Nikita, as one expects, overshadows his playmates—until another boy enters the picture. He is bigger than Nikita, more muscular and extremely agile. He picks Nikita up and tosses him over his head. The rest of the children laugh. The movie fades. The lights go on. Koloff addresses the assembly.

"Many of you know who I am." It is not a question, and cheers and applause quickly fills the auditori-





Koloff bridges up on Ric Flair (top) and hits the gym for a workout (top center), all before embarking on his "Just Say Nyet" tour (above). When Koloff's best friend in Russia died of drug abuse, he realized how important the fight against drugs is.

um. Koloff motions for silence and continues. "Do any of you recognize the boy in the movies with me?" There is no response. "He was my best friend, Vladimir Postrivenko, the greatest athlete in all of Moscow. He could beat me in a wrestling match with one hand tied behind his back, which he did quite often. We expected him to go to the Olympics.

"Here is my friend five years later." The lights dim and a brightness fills the screen. The facade of

a hospital fades into a stark white room. Koloff's friend, recognizable only because of the name tag on his hospital robe, lies rigid in bed. He weighs perhaps 95 pounds. There follows an incredible montage of photographs, juxtaposing Vladimir at different stages of his life. Vladimir in competition, tall and muscular; Vladimir in a clinic, emaciated, his arms filled with hypodermic needle marks. This continues for some moments until the lights go back on.

"Today my friend is dead," Koloff says. "He died in Moscow. He was like a bum in the streets because someone gave him drugs when he was in school."

Koloff's point has been hammered home with amazing clarity. The rest of his speech, emphasizing the senselessness and inevitable danger of drugs, these kids have heard a hundred times. But the image in the film of an emaciated Vladimir lying face down in a pool of his own vomit will linger in their minds forever.

During a question-and-answer period, one student asked Koloff what he did to help during his friend's addiction. "I was very ashamed," he says bowing his head. "But I could not understand how my friend got involved with drugs. I did not know how to help or what to do. In Russia, there are not as many places as in United States for young people to go to get the help that they need. They keep problem very much a secret.

"In my time here in America, I see many, many young people in trouble with drugs. Some even offer drugs to me, as vehicle of friendship. These people are sick people. They do nobody any good. They offer nothing but death."

Koloff signs autographs for 20 minutes, each autograph punctuated by the quickly scrawled phrase "Just say nyet!" a clever Russian-ization of First Lady Nancy Reagan's "Just say no!" message.

Koloff believes in as much personal contact as possible. "A hug or a handshake is better than a pamphlet. This is hard time we live in, hard time to be growing up in. Children need all help we can give them." Koloff then gets up to leave; the next school is an hour away. The tireless grappler knows that he is but one man in a wide campaign to fight drugs. He knows that this is one opponent he cannot vanquish in a bearhug, that he cannot extend to the time limit.

But he will do his best to try. □



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BEYOND THE SQUARED CIRCLE



▲ Kathy Gagne tells everyone to hold still as she focuses the camera during an AWA television taping. Gagne is the daughter of AWA legend Verne Gagne.



▲ Madusa Miceli seems perplexed at what she's seeing in a Japanese wrestling magazine. She's probably wondering why they are no photos of Kevin Kelly, either.



▲ Former football great Lyle Alzado and "Dr. Death" Steve Williams horse around on the set of *Learning the Ropes*, a new TV show starring Alzado and featuring Williams and several NWA stars.



◀ Kerry and Kevin Von Erich greet a fan during their "Von Erichs Over America" tour. The Von Erichs have always been active in various youth organizations in their home state of Texas.



▲ Sure, Jim Powers of The Young Stallions is a fine wrestler, but can his grip turn an opponent to ice? The young grappler was clowning around at New York's "Cat Club."



▲ To prove that he has friends in the entertainment industry, Jim Cornette sent us this photo of him with Maurice White and Philip Bailey of Earth, Wind, & Fire. Okay, Jim, we believe you now.



▲ Eddie Gilbert tries to decide which film he'll watch. As much as he likes movies, though, Gilbert says he uses his VCR primarily for studying opponents' matches.

◀ Missy Hyatt shares a joke with Stan Lane of The Midnight Express. While Lane continues a successful partnership with Bobby Eaton, Hyatt ponders several career options.

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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 10)

turn forced Hennig to fly into the cage, opening up a severe cut on his forehead.

Gagne tried to end the match by applying a sleeperhold. In a desperate move, Hennig kicked at Nomellini. The move forced Gagne to break the hold, after which Hennig regained the advantage by ramming Gagne into the cage.

Hennig's reservations about Nomellini were confirmed when the official—frustrated with Hennig's tactics—took matters in his own hands by grabbing

Nasty Boys ... Ray Stevens pinned Soldat Ustinov ... Billy Robinson drew with Tom Zenk ... Bruiser beat Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie by disqualification.

Lansing, MI (Correspondent—Boomer Star): It was Greg "The Hammer" Valentine squaring off against Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake in a battle of ex-partners. The action was fast and furious as each man pounded away, trying to end the other's career and gain revenge for their rivalry of the past year. It looked



Brutus Beefcake staggers from a Greg Valentine blow. Their rivalry continued in Lansing, Michigan, where Valentine's manager, Jimmy Hart, interfered several times.

Hennig and hitting him with a shoulderblock. Gagne dropkicked the stunned Hennig and covered him for the three-count.

Though the match was originally billed as an "AWA World title bout," AWA President Stanley Blackburn announced that he was not able to sanction a title match in a cage as the proper papers did not reach his office in time. As a result, Gagne's pinfall victory did not merit the World title.

In other bouts: The Midnight Rockers defeated Kevin Kelly & Ninja Go ... Wahoo McDaniel & Baron Von Raschke beat The

as if "The Barber" would submit when "The Hammer" placed him in a figure-four leglock, but Beefcake was able to reach the ropes and break the hold. Beefcake came back strong, nearly pinning Valentine several times, but his concentration was broken by Jimmy Hart as "The Hammer" went on to claim the victory.

In other bouts: Sika defeated Jerry Allen ... Outback Jack beat Brian Costello ... The Young Stallions defeated The Alaskans ... Jake Roberts and Rick Rude were both disqualified ... Sherri Martel defeated Rockin' Robin. □

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

Morton and ran back to the dressing room just as Calhoun returned to the ring and made the three-count.

The AWA allows for a videotape review of controversial title matches, but it appears that this decision will stand.

All but one World Wrestling Council men's title changed hands during February. **Hercules Ayala** defeated **Carlos Colon** for the Universal title on February 13 in Puerto Rico after Ayala's manager, **Chicky Starr**, handed him a foreign object; Colon held the belt since September 20, 1987. **Bobby Jagers** and his partner "**Dandy**" **Don Crawford** won the Caribbean tag belts from **Chris** and **Mark Youngblood**; and **Abdullah the Butcher** defeated **Miguel Perez Jr.** for the North American title, but Perez bounced back to defeat **Kareem Muhammad** for the Puerto Rican championship.

Dale Mann is the heavyweight champion of Mid-Continental

wrestling, an independent group operating in Kentucky. Mann is feuding with **Danny Fargo**, **Sheik Ali Siktari**, and **Mike Daggandorf**. He recently returned from a tour of South Africa, where he defended his belt against South African champion **Ironman ... Mike George** will defend his World Wrestling Alliance title against TV champ **Masa Chono ...** The Championship Wrestling Alliance (formerly Mid-Southern) will air its TV show on the Financial News Network beginning in April. FNN is available on most basic cable systems.

Andre the Giant tried to give the WWF World title to **Ted DiBiase** but was stopped by federation President **Jack Tunney**. Now, over in the NWA, **Mike Rotundo** has given his Florida belt to **Rick Steiner**. When **Kevin Sullivan**, leader of "The Varsity Club," said on TV that Rotundo was his favorite wrestler, Steiner responded, "Why is Mike your favorite?" Sullivan, ever

David Crockett interviews Kevin Sullivan and "Varsity Club" members Mike Rotundo, the TV champion, and Rick Steiner, who was given Rotundo's Florida belt to defend.



the politician, said, "I won't give you everything you want, but I'll give you everything you need." Sullivan then ordered Rotundo to give Steiner the Florida belt and told Steiner, "Don't lose it." Steiner will only defend the belt for Rotundo, who's also the NWA TV champion. NWA officials are looking at the situation closely to determine a ruling on this issue.

Michael Hayes turned some heads during a World Class card in Dallas. Hayes, who until recently wrestled in the NWA while his former **Fabulous Freebird** partners **Terry Gordy** and **Buddy Roberts** formed an alliance with **Iceman Parsons** and **Angel of Death**, was in town to promote a March 4 stop on his Badstreet Band concert tour. Hayes entered the ring to greet the crowd and told the fans that he no longer has differences with the Von Erichs, his longtime enemies. Hayes also said that he doesn't mind if Roberts and Gordy are friends with Parsons, but Angel of Death is another story.

Hayes and the Angel had several confrontations in the UWF last year when Angel was supposedly The Freebirds' bodguard. But Angel attacked Hayes during a match and it was later discovered that Angel was working for **Gen Skandor Akbar**. Angel was also managed by Parsons in 1987, and was even Hayes' protege at one point. The bad blood still remains, and it's hard to say what might happen next.

Tom Zenk, who was readying himself for a challenge to **Curt Hennig's** AWA World title, has left the AWA for undisclosed reasons ... **Doug Furnas** suffered a mild concussion and required 28 stitches as the result of a stretcher match against Southeast Continental champion **Lord Humongous**. By the way, see "Ratings Analysis" on page 66 for complete details on Continental's split into two federations.

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches! ☐

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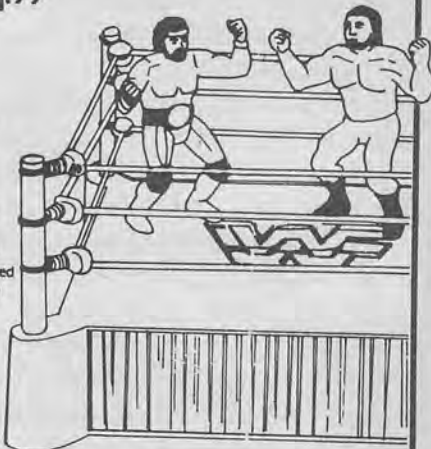
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STING VS. FLAIR

(Continued from page 35)

Having thrown this tastiest of news morsels to the reporters, Flair shrugged off the trainer, wiped away the blood, stood up, and walked away. "No more questions," he said among shouts of protest from the attending scribes before disappearing into the trainer's room. One reporter tried to chase after Flair but was stopped by a hulking security guard.

"He just dropped a bomb," said the reporter, "and nobody got to hear the explosion!"

Flair, of course, could have been speaking out of frustration. He had just come out the winner in an incredible battle against Sting, but victory was anything but easy. Midway through the match, Flair was bloodied when Sting bashed his head into the ringpost. "The Nature Boy" got weaker as the match drew on, while the youthful Sting grew stronger.

When referee Tommy Young was knocked out in a collision with the champion, Sting covered Flair for a pin. Seizing the moment, manager J.J. Dillon ran into the ring and smashed Sting in the head with his shoe. Dillon then put Flair on top of a stunned Sting and ran out of the ring just as Young regained consciousness and made the three-count.

It was, in every way, a typical Sting-Flair battle. Early in their feud, Flair handled Sting easily. With each match, however, Sting has gained confidence and valuable experience in championship situations.

Then came The Party.

In late January, the Horsemen honored Flair with a black-tie celebration during a card in Raleigh, North Carolina. After finishing his match, Sting challenged Flair, but ended up getting attacked by the Horsemen. Flair later accused Sting of ruining his party and challenged him to a series of matches. But Sting has been the aggressor in every one of their meetings since then and has

(Continued on page 50)



The bloodied champion elbows mashes Sting (above), who retaliates with his most effective hold, the "scorpion leglock" (below). Flair's suggestion that Sting may become a Horseman has set off a wave of speculation among reporters, some of whom have learned that J.J. Dillon definitely does not want Sting to join the group.



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November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

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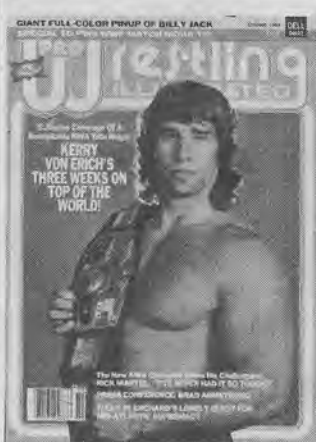
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July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler**, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.



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October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich**, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes**, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair**, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

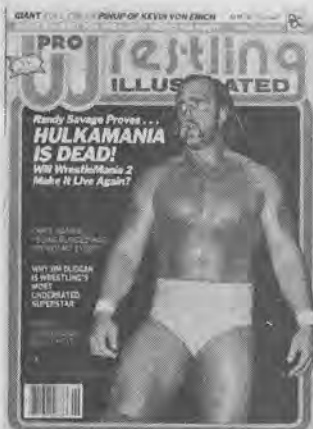
December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorf, Williams & DiBiase.

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February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich**, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter**, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.



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August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage**, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff**, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs**, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

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May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Andre**, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

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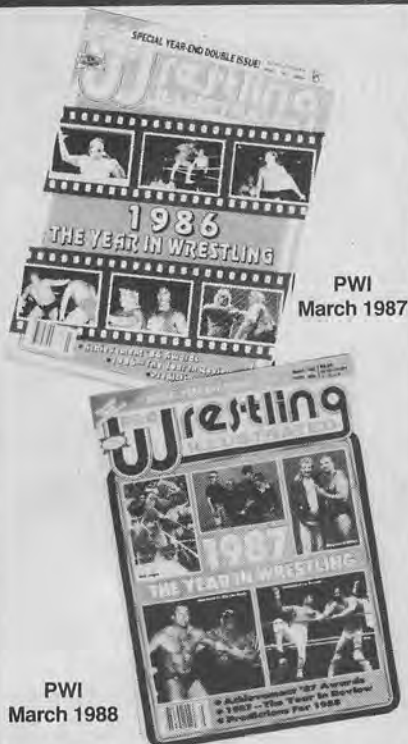
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STING VS. FLAIR

(Continued from page 48)



J.J. Dillon smacks Sting with his shoe. Dillon apparently feels that he must interfere to save Flair's title, although Flair insists he doesn't need the help. If Sting becomes a Horseman, Flair's belt will be in considerably less danger of being taken from him.

come very close to winning the title.

So close, in fact, that, according to a source close to the Horsemen, Flair approached Dillon about the possibility of asking Sting to join the Horsemen. A copy of an inter-Horsemen memorandum from Flair to Dillon was obtained by *The Wrestler*. It read, in part, as follows:

I respectfully submit a proposal to draft Sting as the fourth member of the Horsemen. Last year, when Lex Luger was brought in, the idea was to add to our group a young, muscular athlete with great potential. Although the Luger project eventually failed, I believe we should follow the same guidelines in our search for a fourth Horseman. On several occasions, Sting has come close to beating me by pinfall. It would benefit both myself in the short run, because we would eliminate one of my top challengers, and the Horsemen in the long run, because I believe Sting is a future superstar—if not one already—who could be further improved and cultivated by our training.

Dillon, however, turned down Flair's proposal, apparently because he feared a repeat of the Luger disaster. "There is no reason to make a

hasty decision and sign somebody just because we're called The Four Horsemen," Dillon has told reporters. "The Four Horsemen can survive very well with three wrestlers and myself. We do not wish to take on another Ole Anderson or Lex Luger, who will use us for his own good and have no concern for the group as a whole."

Upon further investigation, it was learned that Flair and Dillon had heated words over the proposal and finally decided to approach the other two Horsemen, Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard, to settle the dispute. Arn and Tully, however, were also split on the matter, although it hasn't been learned who wanted Sting and who opposed him.

This rift doesn't threaten the future of the Horsemen, but it does raise some interesting questions. The Horsemen have always put protecting Flair's title as a top priority. When Luger was signed last year, many experts felt it was done to protect Flair from one of his top challengers. And why wouldn't the Horsemen want Sting, an outstanding young star who has experience as a rulebreaker?

As the weeks pass, Sting gets closer to winning Flair's World title. Eventually, the Horsemen may have no choice but to invite him into their band of terror.

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TED DiBIASE

(Continued from page 37)

"I read a story in your magazines a couple of months ago about how Mr. DiBiase made his fortune," said Alfred between bites of smoked Norwegian salmon and fresh asparagus. "Naturally I was quite interested, because it seems as if his grandfather got rich the same way I did. That's why I am particularly saddened to see young Ted waste this fortune the way he has. He is showing no respect at all for the value of money."

Alfred stood up for a moment and walked over to a great oak desk at the north wall of the room. He bent down to take out a sheaf of papers and, amidst the documents, removed a small booklet. The booklet was ragged at the edges and the pages had yellowed with age. It was entitled *Basic Investment Techniques*, and Alfred handled the book as if it contained the key to ruling the world.

"Mr. DiBiase has failed to follow the basic rules prescribed by this priceless little manual I have here," said Alfred. "He failed to answer the questions which naturally followed from the moves he made. He failed to even pose the questions. For example, according to Mr. Tunney, the WWF rules clearly state that the title cannot be bought or given to another man. Why wasn't Mr. DiBiase aware of this rule before he purchased Andre the Giant's contract from Bobby Heenan?"

"Then he made his second mistake," Alfred continued. "He obviously paid Earl Hebner a great deal of money to take the place of his twin brother, Dave Hebner. But he had to realize that eventually the authorities would learn of what he did and the decision wouldn't have been allowed to stand. I was shocked that Tunney did allow the pin, but that went against all logic. And when you're dealing with tremendous sums of money—and Mr. DiBiase has spent well over \$1 million in this venture—you must think along logical lines. Any way you look at the situation, Mr. DiBiase had no chance of getting away with what he did. He



Hogan clotheslines DiBiase, who was unable to win the title legally in the ring. According to at least one prominent investment banker, DiBiase failed to follow some basic financial guidelines when he paid Andre the Giant for the title.

made a high-risk investment with a negligible success rate."

DiBiase, in other words, was trying to buy something he couldn't buy. His great thirst for the World title had overcome his powers of reasoning. As lunch continued, I looked at Mr. Alfred and saw a man whose thinking processes have never been clouded by greed. When Alfred dies, he will leave

his benefactors a magnificent sum of money. But, like DiBiase's grandfather, he will have no guarantee that they will manage his estate wisely.

Upon leaving the mansion after lunch, I took a brief drive around the grounds. All of this great property had been earned by Alfred through wise investments and hard work. He seemed to take great pride in what he had accomplished, and rightly so. When one is so rich, there is great temptation to use your money to take shortcuts.

Ted DiBiase has learned that there is no shortcut to success. The decision handed down by Jack Tunney insured that the WWF World title is too valuable to be bought and sold. It must be earned by a worthy wrestler. The irony here, of course, is that DiBiase is one of the finest scientific wrestlers in the world. His years of experience would make him a fine champion.

But money overcame his ambition. And unless he can win the title at WrestleMania IV, he'll have nothing left but memories of unrequited greed. □



DiBiase headlocks Hogan, who, as expected, refused to sell him the title.

Wrestling

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April 1981/Atlas, Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.

June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.

September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.

October 1981/Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen, Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.

November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.

May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Backwinkel.

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December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.



JANUARY 1984

January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Backwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.

February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Backwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.

August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!

December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.

January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.

October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Backwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.

October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Backwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.

December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.

January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.

February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.

March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade '86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.

April 1987/1986 In Pictures, Kevin Von Flair, Rich, Hennig-Backwinkel.

May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.

June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.

July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.

August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.

September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.

October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Backwinkel, Western States tourney.

November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Shepherders, Condrey.

December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card.

January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.

February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.

March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.

April 1988/1987 In Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.

May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.

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KERRY VON ERICH

(Continued from page 32)

tial danger he was in. But no one bargains for a quadruple-team—ever. And Dad had no way to defend himself—he couldn't use his hands."

Fueling Kerry's anger is the knowledge that to avenge his father's injuries he has no choice but to play into the attackers' hands. It appears as if Von Erich pride may overrule common sense.

"Kerry Von Erich is so stupid I almost feel bad about ending his career," pipes Buddy Roberts. "What the hell else is a guy so dumb gonna do for a living once he can't wrestle anymore?"

"I have no pity for that idiot," said Terry Gordy. "The Von Erichs think they're so superior. He thinks he can take me, does he? He thinks

I'm quaking in my boots at the prospect of facing his anger? Give me a break. I'd much rather wrestle Kerry than smell Buddy's breath in the morning. *That's* something to fear."

Meanwhile, at the Von Erich compound, Fritz Von Erich feels responsible for the entire episode, and is plenty worried. "Kerry's a good boy," he says. "He's trying to protect his father and preserve the family name. In my whole life I never left an arena on a stretcher. It was plain stupidity to fall into The Freebirds' trap. Now I got my boy involved in something he shouldn't be. Kerry should have his mind on the title. Instead, he winds up in a feud against these thugs.

"I know Kerry can manage, he



Referee Rick Hazzard has a difficult time breaking up Gordy and Kerry. Gordy and his cohorts are on Kerry's hit list, following their brutal attack on Fritz. Kerry is so anxious for revenge that he may be leaving himself open to further attacks.

always has. But if these animals get the right opportunity, they'll go after Kerry's ankle. They have no conscience. They would like nothing more than to end the career of a Von Erich. Kerry gets so darned hyper that he leaves himself vulnerable to sneak-attacks. If he doesn't cover himself this time, he'll be in a lot of trouble."

Thus far, the only one in *real* trouble has been Terry Gordy. In two separate battles, Von Erich has grounded the meaty Freebird with a devastating strategic attack. In one early encounter, Von Erich surprised Gordy with an aerial demonstration that evoked memories of Kerry's rookie year.

"I felt like I could fly," he enthused after the match. "Seeing that big oaf brings out the best in me. I just keep a mental picture of my dad in the hospital, and there isn't a way in the world I can lose."

In a later match, Fritz Von Erich's worst fears were almost realized. While Kerry pummeled away at Gordy in the corner, Roberts and Parsons snuck behind and grabbed him. While Gordy and Roberts pinned his arms, Parsons climbed the top rope, preparing to smash into his ankle. Fortunately, Kevin Von Erich, who watched the incident unfold from the dressing room, snatched Parsons off the rope. The two brothers then chased the three back to their dressing rooms.

"I was beating the heck out of Gordy until his buddies joined in," commented Kerry afterward. "I just have to be more careful. I have to remember I'm fighting four, not one."

"But Terry Gordy better bone up on his math, too. Because whenever it's one on one, whenever it's just he and I in that ring, his career and his life are in jeopardy. I'm after all four of those scum, but Gordy's number one on my list—which means he'll be the first to fall. With a strong and painful thud."

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FALL 1984/Color pinups: Haynes-Nagasaki, Kahiki-Kamala, Steamboat-Slater, Blanchard-Colon. **Stories include:** Hogan, David Von Erich, Flair-Brody, Blanchard.

WINTER 1984/Color pinups: Michael Hayes, Flair-McDaniel, Gilbert-Rich, Haynes-Funk. **Stories include:** Kerry Von Erich, Martel-Bockwinkel, Piper, Flair-Steamboat.

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WINTER 1986/Color pinups: Rude-Von Erich, Khrushchev-Mantel, Hogan-Adonis, Bockwinkel-DeBeers. **Stories include:** Supercards, Hogan-Omdorff, Horsemen, Snuka, Von Erich.

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)



Lex Luger and Dusty Rhodes lock up at Starrcade '87. Breaking with the Horsemen and befriending Rhodes made Luger a man to be respected, writes Sherri Hall.

even without the cheating. I can't say the same of Ric Flair.

When Luger went on national TV just days after his U.S. title loss at Starrcade '87 and admitted that Dusty Rhodes was, as he said, "The Legend," I began to respect Lex as a man. That day, when he announced that he would win or lose his matches on his own merit and wrestling ability, he proved he was being honest with the public. More importantly, he was being honest with himself.

Many wrestlers have ability and honesty, but Lex has another vital asset: a working knowledge of the most dangerous rulebreaking cooperative in the sport, The Four Horsemen. Knowing the method of their madness gives Lex the capability to counteract it.

Ability, honesty, and an understanding of the Horsemen. These three tools are what make Lex Luger a lethal weapon. He is undoubtedly the greatest wrestler in the world today.

SHERRI HALL
Lynchburg, VA

DEFENDING THE WOMEN

I have heard and read it all about women wrestlers being unattractive, out of shape, and boring. Sure, The

Fabulous Moolah isn't the most attractive woman around, but not too many women over the age of 50 have the endurance Moolah does. She always had enough muscle to get the job done, plus a mean streak wider than the Pacific Ocean.

How many wrestlers have a mind like Sherri Martel, who reverses her opponents' finishing maneuvers to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat? I've seen her do it more than once.

Velvet McIntyre shows skills few possess; she can do it all technically and aerially. She is the only wrestler I've ever seen deliver three different kinds of dropkicks. The main reason Velvet hasn't had a title belt strapped around her waist in the last 2½ years is because 99 percent of the time she wrestles fairly.



Women like WWF champion Sherri Martel and Velvet McIntyre have just as much ability as the men do, Paul Blashka writes.

Candi Devine is a good technical wrestler with some aerial skills, but she will never win the AWA World women's title unless she can get the champion, Madusa Miceli, in a cage, or can get Kevin Kelly and Nick Kiniski barred from ringside. Kelly and Kiniski both have interfered against Devine on Miceli's behalf. What is a 130-pound woman to do against someone twice her size?

As far as their training goes, Sherri, Velvet, and Candi put their time in with swimming, running, and aerobics, while Miceli seems to work mainly with weights.

Let's not forget about Wendi Rich-

(Continued on page 58)

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 57)

ter. If she were in the WWF, she'd be the champion, or certainly contending for the title. She was probably chased out of the WWF because Hulk Hogan was afraid she was getting more popular than he was.

PAUL BLASHKA
Fond du Lac, WI

THUMBS UP!

I would like to offer my own personal "thumbs up" to a few individuals:

• Vince McMahon. After "The Slammys," I had this sinking feeling in my stomach that McMahon was returning to his old ways of promoting hillbilly weddings and so forth. But the broadcast of the "Royal Rumble" on the USA Network displaced my concerns. The WWF put on an extravaganza that won't soon be forgotten, especially one particular match: Rick Steamboat vs. Rick Rude. Their match at the Rumble was probably the most incredible bout I have witnessed since the Steamboat-Randy Savage encounter at WrestleMania III, and I have a feeling it may even have topped that match. I lost track of the two-counts; there had to be almost 20!

• Mike Rotundo. His new alliance



Larry Zbyszko puts the armlock on Barry Windham. Reader Jeff Welling says Zbyszko would make an ideal candidate for The Four Horsemen.

with Kevin Sullivan is, in my opinion, only going to help his career. He has always been a fantastic scientific wrestler, but Sullivan has programmed the killer instinct in him. I am looking forward to his upcoming matches with Nikita Koloff and other greats of the NWA.

●Larry Zbyszko. He may be a loudmouth and a creep, but he defeated Barry Windham for the Western States title. If The Four Horsemen are looking for a new member, I think they ought to seriously examine Zbyszko. He would prove to be a highly valuable ally.

●Dusty Rhodes. I don't particularly care for his style, and I sometimes have trouble looking at him while I eat, but I have an incredible amount of respect for the guy. Three times Bunkhouse Stampede champion—I think that says it all.

I salute all these individuals for their remarkable feats. Good going, guys!

JEFF WELLING
Bellevue, WA □

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)

past few years. A guy couldn't ask for a better brother and friend. But I knew if I was going to get any respect in this sport, I'd better make it on my own, and I have. Still, I'd love to see us win a major tag title someday. That would be the ultimate."

Q: "I have a question for Ted Arcidi: Now that Dino Bravo has unofficially broken your benchpress record by lifting 712 pounds, are you going to attempt to break his record?" —Darrin Butland, Verbank, NY

A: "Why do I have to break a record that doesn't exist?" Arcidi said. "First of all, I saw a tape of the lift [at the Royal Rumble], and it's obvious that Jesse Ventura helped Bravo get the bar up. Second, the lift isn't official because it's not recognized by any of the major powerlifting organizations. Third, I know Bravo, and he's not nearly as strong as I am. Nobody's gonna tell me he's capable of pressing 712 pounds. My lift was 705½ pounds. It won't be broken for a long time. Dino Bravo is not the world's strongest man, I am!"

Q: "My question is for five-time NWA World champion Ric Flair: With Lex Luger gone from the elite Four Horsemen, are you, Tully, Arn, and J.J. going to replace him soon?" —Jeff Fitzpatrick, Noblesville, IN

A: Flair replied: "We've set such a high standard of excellence for ourselves that it may be a long time before we come up with a replacement. One does not become a Horseman on looks alone, as it were. A lot of intangibles go into the equation. That punk Barry Windham had his chance to join our select society, but he blew it. Unfortunately, he was weaned on the Dusty Rhodes philosophy, which means that he was too far

gone to take advantage of our unprecedented offer. As it stands, I can't see anyone worthy of the number-four spot."

Q: "My question is for Wendi Richter: Will you ever return to the WWF and win back the women's title belt that rightfully belongs to you?" —Jason Fleming, Benicia, CA

A: "To be honest with you, I hardly ever think about the WWF," Richter said. "I'm too busy defending



Wendi Richter's career certainly didn't end when she lost the WWF women's title. She says she is a much better wrestler than current WWF champ Sherri Martel.

my World Wrestling Council championship down here in Puerto Rico. I don't think much of [WWF women's champion] Sherri Martel, though. I've seen her wrestle several times. She's got some decent moves, but she'd never cut it down here. I'd like to see her try to stand up to the competition I face night after night. I hate to brag, but I'm the only true world champion in women's wrestling. It'll take a tremendous effort for somebody to win my title." □

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Inside **Wrestling**

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ROAD WARRIOR ANIMAL vows:
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RANDY SAVAGE

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Wrestling

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MARCH 1978

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July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.



AUGUST 1982

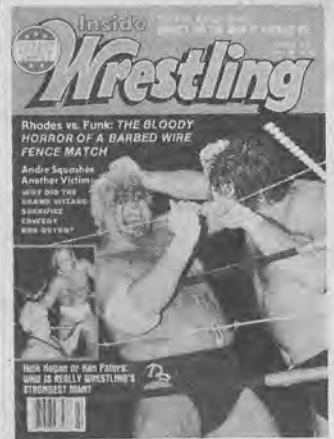
August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.



FEBRUARY 1983

February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.

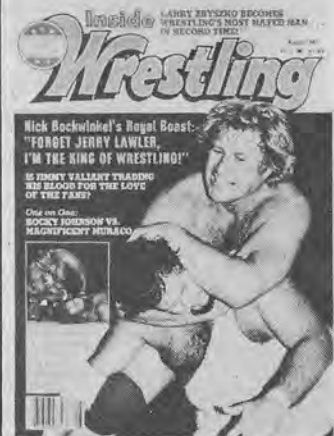
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

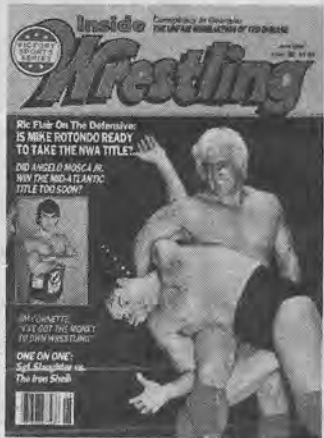
July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.



AUGUST 1983

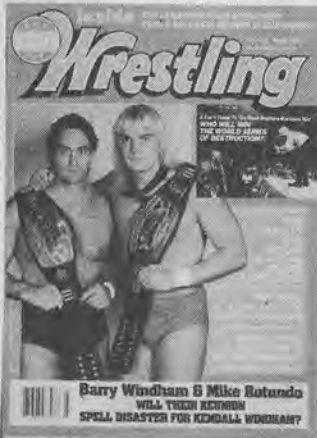
September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.



JUNE 1984

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.



MARCH 1986

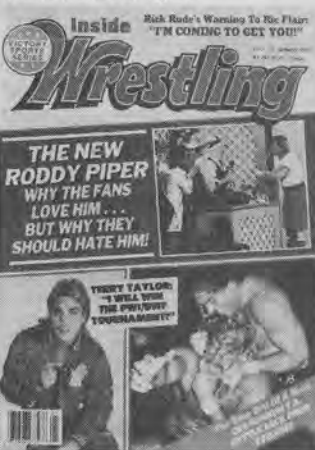
March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Roll.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlemania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.

September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.
October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.



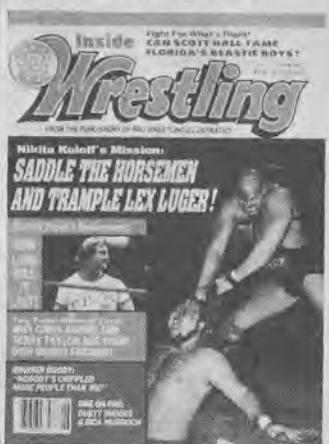
NOVEMBER 1986

November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.



JANUARY 1987

February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.
March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.



JUNE 1987

June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.
October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.

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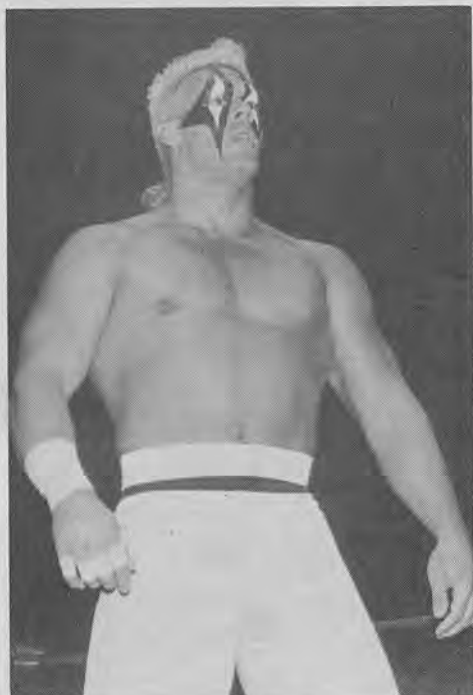
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Wrestler^{THE}



Sting

TOP 10

- 1 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
NWA World champion
- 2 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
No. 1 contender: vacant WWF title
- 3 DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
U.S. heavyweight champion
- 4 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
No. 3 contender: NWA title
- 5 CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
AWA World champion
- 6 AL PEREZ**
238, Tampa, FL
World Class champion
- 7 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
No. 2 contender: NWA title
- 8 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
No. 1 contender: WWF I-C title
- 9 OWEN HART**
223, Calgary, Alberta
Stampede North American champion
- 10 BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
273, San Francisco, CA
No. 2 contender: WWF I-C title

TAG TEAMS

- 1 TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
Combined weight: 484 pounds
NWA World tag team champions
- 2 RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA**
Combined weight: 489 pounds
WWF World tag team champions
- 3 BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE**
Combined weight: 453 pounds
U.S. tag team champions
- 4 DEMOLITION**
Combined weight: 585 pounds
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 5 THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS**
Combined weight: 461 pounds
AWA World tag team champions
- 6 BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART**
Combined weight: 515 pounds
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 7 THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**
Combined weight: 461 pounds
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 8 WARLORD & BARBARIAN**
Combined weight: 655 pounds
No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 9 THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
Combined weight: 453 pounds
No. 1 contenders to AWA tag team title
- 10 BRUCE HART & BRIAN PILLMAN**
Combined weight: 437 pounds
Stampede Int'l tag team champions

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 2—STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 4—LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 5—MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 6—BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—BOBBY EATON**
233, Huntsville, AL
- 8—RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 9—ARN ANDERSON**
249, Minneapolis, MN
- 10—RICK STEINER**
248, Detroit, MI

AWA

World Champion:
CURT HENNIG

235, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 2—WAHOO McDANIEL**
280, Midland, TX
- 3—KEVIN KELLY**
271, Oakland, CA
- 4—BOB ORTON JR.**
245, Kansas City, KS
- 5—SOLDAT USTINOV**
265, Moscow, Russia
- 6—BRIAN KNOBBS**
295, Allentown, PA
- 7—BARON VON RASCHKE**
271, Berlin, Germany
- 8—JERRY SAGONOVICH**
270, Allentown, PA
- 9—THE GRAPPLER**
280, parts unknown
- 10—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN

WWF

World Champion:
TITLE VACANT

to be filled at WrestleMania IV

- 1—THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
- 2—HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 4—TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 5—BAM BAM BIGELOW**
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 6—RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 7—HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 8—JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 9—RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 10—GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
AL PEREZ

238, Tampa, FL

- 1—CHRIS ADAMS**
228, Stratford, England
- 2—TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 3—KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 4—KEVIN VON ERICH**
235, Denton, TX
- 5—MATT BORNE**
235, Portland, OR
- 6—TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 7—ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY
- 8—STEVE SIMPSON**
215, Johannesburg, S. Africa
- 9—ICEMAN PARSONS**
245, St. Louis, MO
- 10—BILL IRWIN**
250, Duluth, MN

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

MOST POPULAR

- 1 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2 DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular
- 3 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular
- 4 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
- 5 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular
- 6 KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular
- 7 BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
273, San Francisco, CA
Last issue: unrated
- 8 HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular
- 9 OWEN HART**
223, Calgary, Alberta
Last issue: unrated
- 10 BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular

MOST HATED

- 1 TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated
- 2 ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated
- 3 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated
- 4 LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated
- 5 THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated
- 6 CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated
- 7 TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated
- 8 RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated
- 9 TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
Last issue: unrated
- 10 MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
Last issue: unrated

For period ended February 26, 1988

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

- 1—HULK HOGAN 95 points
- 2—RIC FLAIR 93 points
- 3—NIKITA KOLOFF 53 points
- 4—LEX LUGER 53 points
- 5—RANDY SAVAGE 45 points

TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE ROAD WARRIORS 90 points
- 2—THE HART FOUNDATION 73 points
- 3—BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE 70 points
- 4—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON ... 61 points
- 5—RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA 47 points

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
OWEN HART

223, Calgary, Alberta

- 1—GAMA SINGH**
220, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2—MAKHAN SINGH**
380, Saginaw, MI
- 3—JASON THE TERRIBLE**
270, parts unknown
- 4—BRIAN PILLMAN**
226, Cincinnati, OH
- 5—CHRIS BENOIT**
218, Edmonton, Alberta
- 6—STEVE DISALVO**
260, Ft. Bragg, NC
- 7—HIRO HASE**
226, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 8—BRUCE HART**
211, Calgary, Alberta
- 9—KERRY BROWN**
225, Kansas City, MO
- 10—RIP ROGERS**
238, Atlanta, GA

CWA

CWA Champion:
MAX PAIN

350, Iowa City, IA

- 1—TOMMY RICH**
248, Hendersonville, TN
- 2—BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, Australia
- 3—MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX
- 4—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 5—JIMMY JACK FUNK**
243, Portland, OR
- 6—DON BASS**
230, Memphis, TN
- 7—GARY YOUNG**
240, Houston, TX
- 8—EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
- 9—TEIHO KHAN**
265, Singapore
- 10—BILLY TRAVIS**
218, Houston, TX

CONTINENTAL/USA

Continental Champion:
LORD HUMONGOUS

325, parts unknown

- 1—DUTCH MANTEL**
224, Oil Trough, TX
- 2—TOM PRITCHARD**
220, Houston, TX
- 3—DAN DAVIS**
238, Nashville, TN
- 4—THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
- 5—TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksnorth, TN
- 6—SCOTT ARMSTRONG**
212, Marietta, GA
- 7—SCOTT HALL**
290, Minneapolis, MN
- 8—BUDDY LANDELL**
236, Los Angeles, CA
- 9—FRANK LANCASTER**
239, Atlanta, GA
- 10—HECTOR GUERRERO**
218, Mexico City

PUERTO RICO

WWC Champion:
HERCULES AYALA

273, Bayoman, PR

- 1—CARLOS COLON**
246, Santa Isabel, PR
- 2—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
360, Sudan
- 3—INVADER I**
227, San Lorenzo, PR
- 4—TERRY FUNK**
241, Amarillo, TX
- 5—BRUISER BRODY**
284, Albuquerque, NM
- 6—MIGUEL PEREZ, JR.**
232, Carolena, PR
- 7—SUPER BLACK NINJA**
245, Tokyo, Japan
- 8—TNT**
242, parts unknown
- 9—KENDO NAGASAKI**
248, Singapore
- 10—DUTCH MANTEL**
224, Oil Trough, TX

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 135 wrestlers in 12 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Continental Championship Wrestling splits! Professional wrestling continues to undergo tremendous change, and the latest federation affected is Continental Championship Wrestling, which operates predominately in the Southeast United States. In mid-February, CCW divided into two groups: Continental and U.S.A.



Dutch Mantel

Continental will operate in the Florida panhandle, Alabama, and parts of Mississippi. Dutch Mantel, the Southeast Continental champion, is involved in a feud with Wendell Cooley (sidelined with a broken right kneecap suffered during an attack by Mantel) Robert Fuller, and Jimmy Golden. Among the talent in Continental are Lord Humongous, Dan Davis, Frankie Lancaster, Scott Hall, Jay Strongbow Jr., manager Downtown Bruno, Tony Anthony, and a new 310-pounder named Detroit Demolition.

U.S.A. Wrestling will run shows in Tennessee, Kentucky, and parts of Ohio, West Virginia, and North Carolina. U.S.A. Tennessee champion Doug Furnas, formerly the Continental



Buddy Landell

Tennessee champ, is feuding with Buddy Landell. The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs are the tag team champions. Other talent includes: Hector Guerrero, Moondog Spot, Mongolian Stomper, The Bullet, Scott Armstrong, Johnny Rich, and his cousin Davey Rich. The first U.S.A. heavyweight champion will be crowned in a tournament at a future date.

Here's how this affects our ratings. Although Continental and USA have split, we're keeping them together under one ratings category, modifying the heading from "Continental" to "Continental/USA." "They won't be running shows together right away, but there's a good chance that they will in the near future," said *Wrestler* Senior Editor Bill Apter, "sort of like the NWA/UWF co-promotions of the past." Should the split between the two areas become more distinct in the future, the single category could be split into two, with one of them falling into occasional representation in our revolving spot.

Most Hated Tag Teams. Last month we looked at the 10 most popular tag teams in wrestling. Now here's a look at the teams you love to hate. As is the case with our monthly Most Popular and Most Hated categories, these ratings are

based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our office. We'd like to hear what you think.

One note of interest: AWA World tag team champions **The Midnight Rockers** were ranked sixth in the Most Popular tag teams ratings and show up again in the Most Hated ratings. The Rockers are still very popular in many AWA towns, but have made quite a few enemies in the CWA. Their feud with **The Rock 'n' Roll Express**, perennially one of the most beloved teams in the sport, has made the Rockers even more hated.

1—THE WARLORD & KONGA THE BARBARIAN

No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title

2—BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE

U.S. tag team champions

3—DEMOLITION

No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title

4—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON

NWA World tag team champions

5—THE ISLANDERS

No. 3 contenders to WWF tag team title

6—BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART

No. 2 contenders to WWF tag team title

7—JOHN TATUM & JACK VICTORY

Wild West & WCCW Texas tag team champions

8—THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS

AWA World tag team champions

9—MIKE ROTUNDO & RICK STEINER

No. 5 contenders to NWA tag team title

10—JIMMY GOLDEN & ROBERT FULLER

Southeast Continental tag team champions

We're back in Puerto Rico. This month, the World Wrestling Council becomes the first area to appear twice in our revolving ratings category. And there are plenty of changes in this area since we checked in last time. **Hercules Ayala** recently won the WWC Universal title from the legendary **Carlos Colon**; **Abdullah the Butcher** defeated **Miguel Perez Jr.** for the WWC North American championship; and Perez won the WWC Puerto Rican belt from **Kareem Muhammad**. Ironically, Colon won the belt from Ayala shortly after our first Puerto Rico ratings appeared in the November 1987 issue, and lost the belt just days before these ratings were compiled.

Mail call! We're looking forward to hearing what you think about the Most Hated tag team ratings, the Continental split, WWC ratings, and anything else that's on your mind. Send your comments to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *The Wrestler*, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □



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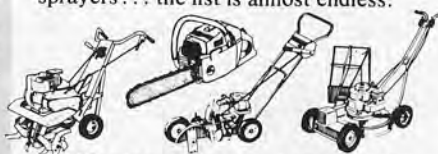
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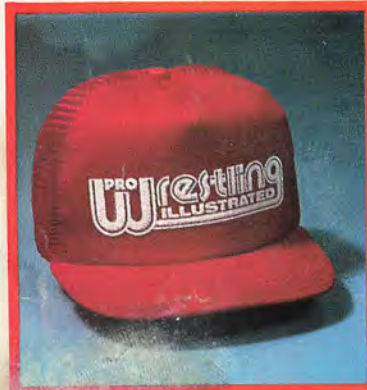
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